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Cancer charity team coming to town

MINDLESS ACT LEAVES THOMAS HOUSEBOUND!

Report by **Henry James**

Disabled man's mobility scooter stolen and left burnt out under subway

A DISABLED Skelmersdale man has been left housebound after thieves stole his mobility scooter and left it burnt out under a subway in the town.

Thomas Ellis, 51, had parked the vehicle by the pensioners block at Birkrig at 2.45pm on Tuesday, March 20 when it was taken.

It was later found burnt out in a subway in Brierfield, which goes under the M58.

Thomas, who lives on Alderley, Digmoor, uses the scooter as he has arthritis in his hips and back, and he has not been able to walk unaided for about 10 years.

He said: "Who in their right mind would do something like this? It's a mindless thing to do. They have gone for a little ride in the scooter and burnt it. The vehicle is still there under the subway in Brierfield. A friend of mine found it.

"It is just sickening, I can't go out now, and I am stuck in the house 24/7. I can't physically get to the shops without the scooter.

"It gave me my own independence, and it was my legs, and it meant I could go and see my friends and socialise. I used it every single day and used it to go to the Concourse.

"I'd had the scooter about 12 months. I bought it myself privately, second-hand. But it wasn't insured so I will have to save up now to get another one and that's going to take me a few months."

Mr Ellis has reported the incident to police, who are checking the CCTV cameras in the area.

A spokesman for Lancashire Police commented: "We were called at around 3.25pm on March 20 to reports of a theft in Skelmersdale. A mobility scooter had been taken from outside an address in Birkrig. The scooter was later found burnt out in the Brierfield area.

"Anyone with information can contact police on 101 quoting crime reference SB1801383."

Housebound - Thomas Ellis

Men-Aces boss drops council bid after being targeted by trolls

CARL Eaton says he has decided not to contest this year's local council elections after being subjected to what he described as "very personal abuse" by internet trolls on his social media accounts.

The Skem Men-Aces manager had planned to stand as an independent candidate for West Lancs Borough Council in Skelmersdale's Moorside ward.

A website had been created to support his campaign and he said he was looking forward to the challenge.

However he has now given up on the idea after being abused on Facebook and Twitter.

He said: "My Facebook and Twitter accounts have been subjected to very personal abuse by trolls.

"I can handle anyone having different political views to mine, but when it turns abusive and even brings my disability into question then frankly I find the whole thing vile, disgusting and very upsetting.

"My wife has also had a number of anonymous calls with no one on the other end.

"Several years ago when I was awarded the Points of Light award by the then Prime Minister David Cameron I was also subjected to abuse.

"All my adult life, I have supported and helped those less fortunate than myself and have fought the corner of the underdog.

"I believe I have achieved so much without becoming a councillor and hopefully gained the respect of a community that I love and will continue to support.

Carl Eaton has abandoned plans to stand for council after being targeted by internet trolls

"Sometimes in life things don't turn out the way you planned but I'm also a firm believer that things happen for a reason.

"I am sure some of the perpetrators of the abuse levelled at me will read this and while trying not to stoop to their atrocious, repulsive and repugnant comments, I would say to them if you could ever be half the person I am then I'm sure that would be a huge achievement in your sad and lonely existence.

"I can't pretend that I'm not hurt but believe me I will bounce back.

"To all those who have supported me I say thank-you from the bottom of my heart.

"And to the haters and sick individuals out there looking for five minutes of fame, I say I'm fine guys, believe me."

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County police rated 'good' at keeping people safe and reducing crime

Government watchdog praises effectiveness of constabulary - despite receiving highest volume of calls per population outside London

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, has welcomed the latest inspectors' finding that Lancashire Constabulary is "good at effectively keeping people safe and reducing crime" - despite police in the county receiving the second highest volume of calls for its population, after London.

Figures released by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services show that Lancashire Constabulary received 376 calls for assistance per 1,000 people in the 12 months to June 30 2017 - well above the national average of 282.

Only the Metropolitan Police in London received more calls at 416 per 1,000.

Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw

Clive Grunshaw said: "Inspectors have been clear that in Lancashire the police are doing a good job at keeping people safe and acting to reduce crime.

"However, the savings we still have to make and the demands being placed on the force continue to put a significant strain on the service.

"We are seeing more and more people contacting the police and, having seen the demand on the contact centre, I am not surprised Lancashire is one of the busiest forces in the country.

"I have said repeatedly that we are seeing the result of cuts to services across the public sector, which many of the most vulnerable people in Lancashire rely on. When people reach crisis point there is often no other safety net, meaning the police are increasingly the emergency service of first resort.

"Staff and officers deserve praise for the work they are doing under this extreme pressure. However, the Government needs to understand the impact that austerity in policing, and throughout the public sector is having, leaving officers to pick up the pieces when people's lives fall apart."

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Village still waiting for super-fast broadband three months after promised date

A UNVERSITY lecturer from West Lancashire says he is still waiting for fibre optic broadband to be available in his home village - three months after BT said it would be!

Richard Rudin from Crawford contacted the Champion at the end of last year complaining that the telecommunication company was taking too long to introduce the super-fast broadband to the village.

At the time, BT said that fibre optic would be available in January, but Mr Rudin, who works at Liverpool John Moores University, says that residents have had no further information on the matter since.

He said: "We have had no information on when fibre optic is to become available. My neighbours have been trying to get information as well.

Problems

"Openreach said it would be available in January, but it's now coming up to April!

"Internet coverage in Crawford is very poor. Sometimes it can be less than 100 kilobytes when it's supposed be 2.2 megabytes! Some days we can't get on the internet at all and in our home, two people can't use it at the same time as it cuts out."

Mr Rudin, who says to work from home he has to download files on to a USB stick, added: "BT were working in Crawford for months, so surely fibre optic can't be far away!"

An Openreach spokesperson responded: "Whilst we try our hardest to meet any time scales we set out, due to the complex engineering work involved sometimes we come across unforeseen problems. In this case we have encountered numerous blockages that needed to be cleared before we could install the fibre cable. We've also been working in an area shared with other utilities and needed to get permission from them before proceeding.

"We apologise for the delay in getting the service up and running but subject to any more unforeseen problems, we hope the residents of Oakleigh will be able to place orders for the ultra-fast fibre broadband during April."

Mobile cancer information team to visit Concourse

FREE cancer information and support is coming to the Concourse Shopping Centre, Skelmersdale on Friday, April 6 from 9am to 4pm.

Macmillan Cancer Support's Mobile Information and Support Service will be visiting the area, with cancer information specialists on hand to answer any questions. The team encourages anyone with worries relating to cancer to stop by.

With April being Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, Macmillan is encouraging people to be aware of the signs and symptoms of the disease.

Bowel cancer is the UK's fourth most common cancer. In the UK in 2013-2015, on average more than four in 10 (44%) of new cases were in people aged 75 and over. It is also very treatable and the earlier it is diagnosed the easier it is to treat.

Debbie Smith, a Macmillan Information and Support Specialist on the unit, said: "Knowing what changes to look for and when to see your doctor could make a real difference. Don't be scared or embarrassed and don't ignore them if you have symptoms. Get them checked."

Macmillan's mobile cancer information team to visit Skelmersdale

Men and women are advised to see their doctor if they have any of these symptoms:

Bleeding from their bottom.

Blood in their poo (stools or bowel motions) for three weeks or more.

Looser poo or diarrhoea that lasts for four weeks or more.

Pain or a lump in their tummy or back passage.

Feeling like they haven't emptied their bowel properly after going to the toilet.

Losing weight for no obvious reason.

Feeling more tired than usual for some time.

Debbie Smith added: "Most people with these symptoms do not have bowel cancer, they can be caused by other things. But don't try to diagnose yourself, see your doctor. If you do have cancer, the sooner it's found, the more likely it is to be successfully treated."

A variety of bowel cancer-related materials are available for free from the team, who can also talk through any queries. Materials are also available for other forms of cancer.

If people are unable to visit the unit but have questions about cancer, they can visit www.macmillan.org.uk or call Macmillan free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm). Individuals can find out about Macmillan services near them at www.macmillan.org.uk/inyourarea.

Homes plans get the go-ahead

PLANS to build a total of 161 homes in Skelmersdale and Up Holland have been approved by West Lancs Council's planning committee.

Morris Homes want to construct 116 homes at Up Holland and a further 45 homes in Skelmersdale.

The proposed development at Up Holland is split into two parcels of land.

The first part is off Chequer Lane and the smaller parcel of land is bound by Chequer Lane to the east, the smaller residential part of Chequer Lane to the west and the M58 motorway to the south.

On the larger sloping parcel of land it is proposed to build a mix of three and four-bedroomed semi-detached and detached two-storey properties.

There is to be no affordable housing on the site, but it will be linked to a separate development in Abbeystead which will provide 45 affordable dwellings.

Up Holland Parish Council had objected to the proposed development for a number of reasons, including concerns about ground gas generation being rated as high risk in the area; low water pressure in the area not being taken into account; and inadequate flood risk assessment.

However the director of development and regeneration at the council, John Harrison, wrote in the papers for the planning application: "I am satisfied that there will be no significant detrimental impact upon the character of the area, amenity of neighbouring properties, biodiversity, trees or highway implications. The development is considered to be compliant with relevant planning policies and the application is therefore recommended for approval."

The proposed development in Skelmersdale would be directly to the south-east of Thorne Island, the roundabout at the intersection of Gillibrands Road and Whiteledge Road, within the Digmoor area of the town.

The homes would be accessed off Abbeystead and would be "100% affordable" in the form of either social or affordable rent or shared ownership. They would comprise one, two and three-bedroomed, one and two-storey properties.

The committee resolved to grant planning permission for the planning applications "subject to the signing of a legal agreement to ensure the delivery of affordable housing, maintenance and management of open space and the surface water drainage system."

Hotter staff become charity shop workers for a day

STAFF members from Skelmersdale footwear brand Hotter Shoes took over the Marie Curie shop in Hunts Cross for a day in a bid to raise takings for the terminal illness charity.

The Hotter staff, named Team Ambition, took shoes and umbrellas to sell in-store and encouraged people to visit the shop.

They were competing with four other rival teams of Hotter colleagues in Marie Curie shops across the UK.

Speaking at the end of the challenge, Sara Prowse, chief executive officer at Hotter, said: "I'm very proud of Team Ambition's efforts in raising the takings at Marie Curie's Hunt Cross shop.

"It was a tougher challenge than I originally thought it might be, however it was a lot of fun and very rewarding.

"Everyone at Hotter is very proud to be supporting Marie Curie, who do a fantastic job providing care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their families, and I'm glad my team could help contribute to that."

Nicola Nicholson, Marie Curie Hunts Cross shop manager, added: "Everyone here is delighted that Hotter have chosen to support Marie Curie in such an active way.

"The takeover was a really great demonstration of both Hotter and Marie Curie working closely together, to help to support people living with a terminal illness.

"It was great to meet and interact with staff from Hotter who were second to none; they did an absolutely amazing job working in-store. Their dedication and passion was truly inspiring - if they're available, we'd love to have them back!"

The shop takeovers are just one of several activities since the partnership began in January.

To coincide with the start of the Great Daffodil Appeal, Marie Curie's biggest annual fundraiser, Hotter launched a limited edition bespoke Mabel shoe with a signature yellow daffodil print on March 1. Retailing at £45, Marie Curie will receive £20 from every pair sold.

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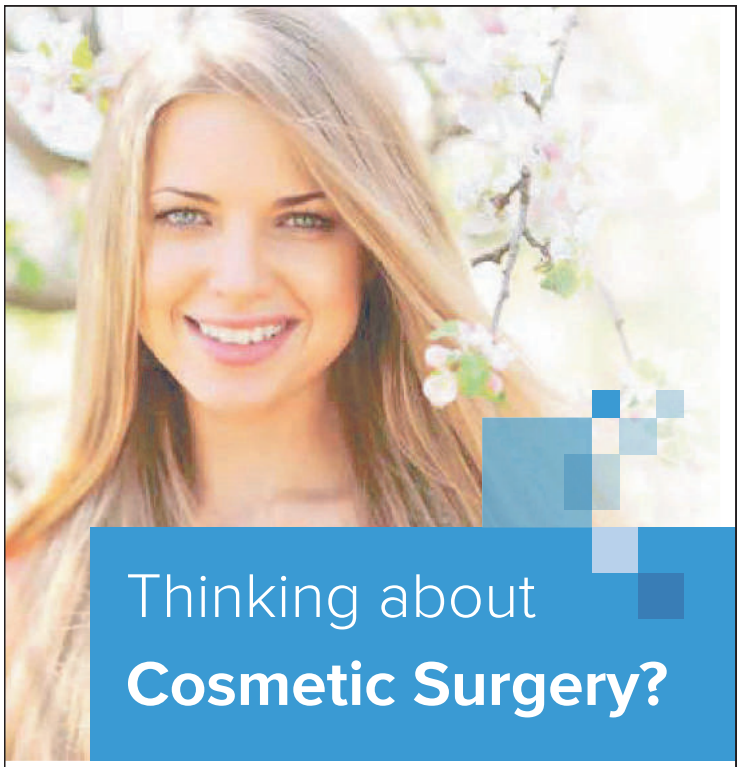

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Public Information

School unveils plaque in memory of director

STAFF and pupils at the Maharishi Free School in Cobbs Brow Lane, Lathom attended the unveiling of a new plaque on their reception class building, previously known as The Qube.

The plaque dedicates the building to the school's late executive director, Richard Scott, who passed away last September, and will now be known as The Richard Scott Qube.

Mr Scott's widow, Claire, who unveiled the plaque, said: "Thank you. Richard would be delighted but also bemused at this plaque in his honour.

"Delighted for the children who are able to benefit from this wonderful addition to the Maharishi Free School, but bemused because it wasn't his style to seek recognition or attention for his work.

"He was entirely devoted to providing consciousness-based education to as many children as possible, but would be the first to deflect any credit to his teacher and inspiration Maharishi Mahesh Yogi who gave us the Transcendental Meditation technique and this wonderful system of education, and also to everyone else who worked with him to acquire the funding."

The reception classroom was built two years ago to the latest energy-saving specifications.

It has large, full-height windows across the whole front of the classroom and another window at the back with a view over fields to the woodland in the distance.

A spokesman for the Maharishi School said: "Richard secured the funding for the Qube from the Department for Education, to replace some temporary cabins and it is a great addition to the school's premises.

"The children in reception enjoy learning in their beautiful classroom and visitors to the school are always impressed with it.

"We understand the school's next focus is to extend and enhance the building's outdoor play area by adding a canopy and some serious play equipment."

Richard Scott's widow, Claire (centre) pictured following the unveiling of the plaque with officials of the Maharishi School

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Borough's rare bees protected - thanks to community grant funding

Report by **Henry James**

RARE species of bees have been protected in West Lancashire thanks to a £15,000 grant from the Whitemoss Community Fund.

The Places for People and Pollinators project has been delivered by Lancashire Wildlife Trust for the past two years at the historic Ashurst Beacon and looks to manage the grassland habitat which is particularly valuable for bees.

Records show some rare species of bee are present at Ashurst Beacon including the nationally scarce Black-headed mining bee and Tormentil mining bee and the regionally scarce Heath bumble bee and Hill cuckoo bee.

The project comes to an end later this month and Ben Hargreaves, Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Plan Bee Project officer, said: "It has been a pleasure to carry out this valuable project.

"Ashurst Beacon is a superb site in many respects, being valued as a historical and cultural asset, as well as being of significant interest for its range of habitats and associated fauna.

"The site has notable importance for invertebrates including the ground-nesting 'mining-bees'. The various habitat management and access works LWT have carried out aim to retain and enhance this value."

The Tormentil mining bee

Financed by Whitemoss Landfill Limited, who operate the landfill site in Skelmersdale, the Whitemoss Community Fund has awarded grants for community projects surrounding the site each year since 2010.

Rob Routledge, chair of the Whitemoss Community Fund Advisory group said: "Whitemoss Landfill is committed to supporting our local community and to protecting the environment. This project has achieved both those aims improving a local site which is important to both people and wildlife."

County allocated extra £2.4m to tackle pothole problem

LANCASHIRE'S roads are set to benefit from extra Government cash to tackle damage caused by the winter conditions.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced that the Government has set aside £100 million for local councils to help repair potholes and other storm damage, with Lancashire County Council awarded just under £2.4m.

The minister says that the money will add to £75 million already given to councils from the Pothole Action Fund this year, as well as an additional £46 million boost for highways authorities announced just before Christmas.

Mr Grayling said: "People rely on good roads to get to work and to see friends or family. We are giving councils even more funding to help repair their roads so all road-users can enjoy their journeys without having to dodge potholes."

The Government is also investing more than £900,000 in innovations using connected vehicles to help councils more efficiently manage and plan maintenance works. These trials will ultimately help provide councils with data to enable them to repair potholes before they occur, as well as maintain their other assets more effectively. This will help prevent further potholes and other road defects occurring over time.

Blackpool Council has been given £100,000 to lead on a digital inspector scheme. This will see high definition cameras mounted on vehicles to collect data on road and path conditions, which is then analysed by computers to highlight where roads are deteriorating.

Council chiefs say town is on the up!

Authority hails Skem as 'a great place to live and do business'

WEST Lancs Council chiefs have issued a statement singing the praises of Skelmersdale as 'a great place to live and do business with a bright future'!

The authority says people living and working in the area are set to reap the benefits of exciting business, housing and leisure projects - with much more in the pipeline.

And the £40 million new college and £2 million Lancashire County Council Youth Zone are cited as just some of the many reasons for optimism.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, declared: "I live in Skelmersdale and I am proud to come from the town. There are many things that make Skelmersdale a great place to live and do business and with much more to come in the next few years these are exciting times for the town and its people."

The council says it remains committed to delivering the retail, commercial and leisure elements of the town centre regeneration and meetings have been held with Homes England and St Modwen to find the best way forward to deliver the scheme and get some development on the ground as soon as possible.

Paul Batho, development director for St Modwen, said: "We are currently in progressive negotiations with a number of potential occupiers who have expressed an interest in coming to Skelmersdale. We continue to work closely with West Lancashire Borough Council and our other development partners to deliver a town centre scheme for the people of Skelmersdale."

Highlighting, the £8 million Firbeck Revival Scheme as part of the town centre regeneration, the council says it has also been in discussions with management of the Concourse about their future plans to improve the shopping centre.

The Youth Zone in Skelmersdale - one of the many reasons for optimism about the town's future according to the council

The statement also makes reference to proposals for a new town centre swimming pool and leisure facility and recently-approved plans for 200-plus houses to be built across three sites in the town, with plans for more housing also in the pipeline.

Councillor Moran said: "Building large numbers of houses shows confidence of private developers to invest in Skelmersdale and links in with the wider regeneration programme as the sites are close to the new town centre. Thanks to a new joint approach between a forward-looking developer and the council, an innovative way of providing significant numbers of affordable homes has been found for an area which needs regeneration."

The statement adds that what it describes as the town's fantastic connectivity and high-quality green business environment, makes it attractive to a growing number of high-performing UK and international businesses including Hotter Comfort Concept shoes, PepsiCo Walkers, SCA Hygiene (Essity) and DHL.

And the council says an increasing number of smaller, entrepreneurial businesses are also choosing Skelmersdale as a business base with the town overall supporting 43% of all jobs in West Lancashire.

Meanwhile the authority says plans for a railway station in the town "have made significant progress" with Lancashire County Council setting aside £4.32m to further build the case for a new branch line to Skelmersdale town centre.

With appropriate funding - currently estimated to be around £300m - identified and secured, it is claimed the scheme could be delivered within 10 years.

First meeting of Tawd Valley Friends group sounds rallying call to community

Report by **Henry James**

'OF the community, for the community' was the clear message that resonated at the initial meeting of the Friends of the Tawd Valley.

Gathering in the Ecumenical Centre, Northway, the 30-strong group actively discussed ideas to drive the development of the Tawd Valley regeneration project in partnership with West Lancs Council's steering group.

Led by the council in association with a number of partners, the project has a masterplan already in place, to improve the "appeal and accessibility of this rich resource."

Running through the heart of Skelmersdale, this 65-hectare wooded valley is full of flora and fauna, waterways and recreation facilities which will be revived and maintained for the enjoyment of the whole community now and in the future.

Proposed developments include a BMX track, fishing lake, cycle paths and a visitor centre but will require significant funding to be attracted from various external sources.

After a brief introduction and summary of progress by Greg Mitten, chief officer of West Lancashire CVS and Stephen Hodges of Groundwork, the Friends group got down to establishing their purpose and roles.

Discussions ranged from how to get local businesses and schools involved, to specific events that people would like to see, and conservation campaigns that could be launched.

A spokesperson for the Friends of the Tawd Valley said: "Communication is key and the whole community being able to contribute to and share in that communication is vital. It was noted that not everyone in the community, who would like to be involved in the group, would be able to attend meetings in person so it would be important to enable them to contribute ideas and have access to information too.

"The development of a website and social media presence that not only keeps the local community up to date with developments and events, but also allows for direct contributions and feedback was strongly supported."

Established

Volunteers with specific skills explained what they felt they could contribute. For example, qualified walk leaders came forward and people who had an interest in maintaining wildlife and plant records also offered to help.

Voluntary litter pickers raised their hands and business and education links were established.

The meeting closed with the formation of sub-groups eager to start on their contribution to the Tawd Valley regeneration.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "This is a very exciting project and the council is looking forward to working with the Friends group and other key partners on this project to make the country park an even better place to visit."

More details about the project can be accessed at www.westlancs.gov.uk/tvpp or by ringing Paula Campbell on 01695 585144.

Pupils from St Thomas the Martyr, Roby Mill and Dalton CE primary schools ready for their performance

Pupils raise the roof at church performance

PUPILS from St Thomas the Martyr CE in Up Holland, Dalton St Michael's CE and Roby Mill CE primary schools teamed up to stage a special pre-Easter performance at St Thomas The Martyr Parish Church.

Since the start of the year, the school choirs have been learning the words and songs to the unique Easter production written by Brenda Entwistle.

The events in the Easter Cantata were told during the production, which Mrs Entwistle has been teaching the children alongside the class teachers.

Mr Roscoe, headteacher at St Thomas the Martyr CE, said: "The children from all three schools lifted the roof and the dedication demonstrated by Mrs Entwistle is truly inspiring."

The schools and the church are planning to come together again in the near future for more spiritual and uplifting projects.

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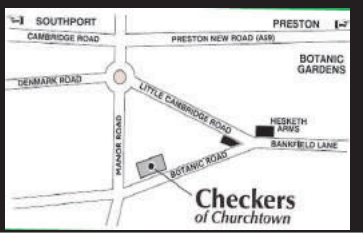

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Opinions divided on cycle path plan

Councillor believes scheme will benefit town but resident says it's a waste of money!

Report by **Henry James**

Motorist Arthur Whitelam surveys one of the potholes in the town

PLANS for the completion of the cycle pathway linking the residential areas of Railway Road to the employment areas at Gladden Place have divided opinions in the town.

The £63,000 scheme, agreed by a meeting of Lancashire County Council's cabinet earlier this month, will be the final phase of work which started in 2016 and has been welcomed by Skelmersdale West County Councillor Julie Gibson.

However, motorist Arthur Whitelam contacted the Champion to declare the scheme "a waste of money" and said it would have been better used to repair potholes in the town's roads.

County Councillor Gibson said: "When I was first elected a number of residents raised with me the issue of supporting cyclists throughout the borough; not just from an environmental benefit but from an employment benefit as well.

"I am hopeful that the new cycleway will open up many new employment opportunities for people in the town.

"Gladden Place is a key employment hub but is not directly served by a bus route, although buses stop nearby. Providing a safe cycleway will ensure cyclists can get to work safely, improving employment opportunities, and improving our environment by helping to take cars off the road."

Work is scheduled to begin in September and expected to be completed by the end of the year.

However, resident Arthur Whitelam said: "I don't see many people going to work on their bike - it's a waste of money. We need to prioritise the roads.

"There are potholes in many of the roads in Skelmersdale, including School Lane, Church Road, and Spa Lane. Spa Lane in particular is in a bad state. The authorities are ignoring roads that people use everyday."

Mr Whitelam also aired his concerns on social media and said he was surprised by the reaction. "I have had people responding that they had had flat tyres, buckled wheels, and tyre blow-outs as a result of travelling over potholes.

"Our roads should be maintained as best as they can be. The council do nothing for us regarding infrastructure."

A spokesman for Lancashire County Council responded: "In the coming year we will invest around £30m in highways, with £23m of this budgeted to resurface roads and tackle potholes following the damage caused by long spells of wet and cold weather over the winter.

"Around £7m will be invested in renewing other vital infrastructure, such as street lights and bridges, as well as improving safety on our roads, with £0.5m set aside for schemes to improve cycle safety, and £0.5m for other road safety schemes in places where there is a record of incidents resulting in people being killed and injured."

NHS

Need health advice or treatment over Easter?

Some local pharmacies are open over the Easter bank holiday weekend, offering confidential advice and treatment without the need for an appointment.

You can call NHS 111 to find your nearest service and for help if you think you need to see a GP over the holidays.

For general health advice, GP and Pharmacy opening hours go to **www.nhs.uk**

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CHAPEL GALLERY

Don't miss out on your chance to vote in local elections

VOTERS in 18 West Lancashire Borough Council wards and six parish areas will go to the polls on Thursday, May 3 for the 2018 local elections - but residents are being reminded that they can still vote even if they can't get to a polling station on the day.

Anyone who thinks they won't be able to go to the polling station can apply for a postal vote; or alternatively they can apply for a proxy vote where someone they nominate can go and cast a vote on their behalf.

Kim Webber, Returning Officer for West Lancashire, said: "There are many reasons to choose to use this process, you don't need to be away or be housebound to apply for a postal or a proxy vote.

"Contact the borough council as soon as you can and make sure you can vote in these elections. Anyone who wants to vote in this year's elections, either by post, proxy or going to the polling station, must be on the Electoral Register."

West Lancs Council's chief executive, Kim Webber who will be Returning Officer at the upcoming elections

The detail of the applications process is as follows.

Register to vote

If people receive a poll card for this election, they are already registered to vote and do not need to do anything else. However, residents can check whether they're registered by calling the elections office on 01695 585014.

They can also fill in an online registration at ww.gov.uk/register-to-vote or www.westlancs.gov.uk/registertovote.

For more information email elections.office@westlancs.gov.uk.

If people do not have access to the internet, they can ask the elections office for a paper registration form to be sent to them. The closing date to register to vote at the May elections is Tuesday, April 17.

Postal or proxy votes

If residents want to apply for a postal or proxy vote form, they should call the Elections Office on 01695 585014, email elections.office@westlancs.gov.uk or download an application form from www.westlancs.gov.uk/howtovote.

Alternatively they can call in to the council offices at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk.

The completed application form for a postal vote must reach the council by 5pm on Wednesday, April 18 and completed application forms for a proxy vote must arrive by 5pm on Wednesday, April 25.

Emergency proxy votes

The council has said that applications to vote by emergency proxy at these elections can be applied for only on the grounds of a medical emergency or for occupation, service or employment reasons, where the reason occurred after 5pm on Wednesday, April 25.

Completed applications must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, by 5pm on Thursday, May 3.

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College careers fair offers youngsters a glimpse of the future

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancashire College teamed up with Future U, a collaborative project that brings together universities, colleges, schools, businesses and communities from across Lancashire, to stage an Interactive Careers and Progression Fair to mark National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week.

Attracting more than 1,500 local school pupils and students, the event created an opportunity to engage with more than 70 employers, organisations and universities from a wide range of sectors.

Young people had the opportunity to find out about careers, talk about their future options and the wide range of apprenticeships and job vacancies on offer to educate and inspire them on their future careers and university progression.

Employers from across the North West attended on the day to provide a range of interactive activities for pupils to get involved in. They included Graylaw Freight Group, Essity, Hotter, NSG Pilkingtons, Roq, Brownlow Utilities, Expect Ltd, Stocks Hall Care Group, Gleeds Cost Management Ltd, the Royal Airforce, the Army, Keir Group, Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, Service Graphics, Stackright, St Richard's RC Primary School, West Lancashire Borough Council, Walkers/PepsiCo, Job Centre Plus and Burrows Lane Farm.

Pepper the Robot makes his 'public debut' at the Future U interactive careers fair hosted by West Lancashire College.

The project also allowed the college's Higher Education hub to showcase its 'Pepper the Robot', a talking humanoid robot which can be programmed to perceive emotions and adapt its behaviour to the mood of the humans around it.

The hub also hosted North West universities providing invaluable information to students and pupils on the range of opportunities available after college.

Denise Williamson, Principal of West Lancashire College, said: "The fair was a truly collaborative and inspirational event with the college, schools, universities and employers working together to stage a fabulous extravaganza of career opportunities and hands-on activities.

"To see more than 1,500 young people being both curious and engaged in their potential future careers was so rewarding. A big thank-you goes to our learners, local schools, universities and employers who made this event so successful."

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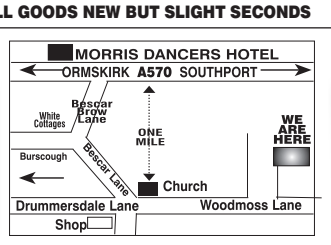

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Hospital trust delighted by public's response to media appeal for return of wheelchairs

OFFICIALS at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust have hailed the success of a media appeal for the return of wheelchairs.

In total 125 wheelchairs worth £25,000 have been returned to the trust following the appeal which featured in the Champion.

Six of the powered wheelchairs are worth more than £10,000 and wheelchair service manager at Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, Yvonne Baron, is delighted.

From mid-February to mid-March, 125 wheelchairs were returned to the Pimbo team based in Skelmersdale. That compares with the whole of February and March last year when only 65 were returned.

Yvonne and her team appeared on the TV, radio and in local newspapers in their appeal for the missing wheelchairs.

She said: "I would like to thank all the people who have contacted us so we were able to collect and then clean up and fix the wheelchairs so they can now be reused for other people.

"We noticed a sharp spike in the numbers returned because of the publicity we received.

"However, there are lots of NHS wheelchairs still out there and not being used - so give us a call on 01695 556 492 so we can collect even more and recycle those too!"

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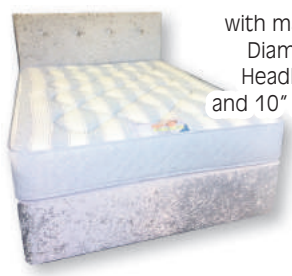

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Singers wanted for church's Easter concert

SINGERS are wanted to take part in an Easter concert being organised by Eunice Woof MBE to be staged at Christ Church, Aughton on Good Friday, March 30.

The concert will start at 7pm and will feature performances by professional tenor, Phil Clieve from Aughton, and operatic tenor, Barry Moult.

Rehearsals for singers wishing to take part will be held prior to the concert at 4pm at the church in Long Lane.

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Happy family...Martin and Shelby Woods, with children Sienna and Noah, are overjoyed after the success of their fundraising appeal

Family's appeal joy at the double!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A COUPLE from West Lancashire who launched an appeal for help to buy a physiotherapy machine for their two children who both suffer from cystic fibrosis, have received such a fantastic response from the community they are now looking to buy two machines.

The Champion reported earlier this year how 21-month-old Sienna Woods and her baby bother, Noah, aged eight months, were both born with the incurable genetic disorder which causes mucus to collect in the lungs and can also affect other organs.

As a result, the youngsters from Burscough have to undergo twice-daily physiotherapy sessions performed by their mum Shelby. They are also prone to lung infections which necessitate two-week stays in hospital for intravenous treatment, followed by three months of extra treatment at home.

Shelby and partner Martin started to raise money to buy a chest wall oscillation vest, a machine that connects to a special vibrating vest and will enable the youngsters' physiotherapy sessions to be done automatically rather than manually.

The machine costs £8,000 and vests cost £300. After raising an initial £3,600 they made an appeal, including through the Champion, for raffle prizes for a fundraising evening last Saturday (March 17).

The response was overwhelming and £2,600 was raised at the event.

Prior to the St Patrick's Day evening, however, the couple's friend, Sheelagh Charnock, contacted Southport-based charity Community Link Foundation which stepped in to donate £4,400.

'Overwhelmed'

Shelby says that they have now been able to buy the machine and six vests for Sienna and with the money left over and other planned fundraising events they will try to buy another machine for Noah.

"We are extremely grateful to everyone at Community Link Foundation and we would also like to thank everyone that came and supported us at our St Patrick's Day event, and helped make it possible, especially Sheelagh because she did such a lot of work selling tickets.

"I am completely overwhelmed with the amount of money that we have been able to raise and the support of the local community as well."

Future fundraising events in the pipeline include a sponsored bike ride from Blackpool Tower to the Eiffel Tower, and sponsored triathlons, 10Ks and cake sales.

Meanwhile the couple contacted West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper to enlist her support in a parliamentary debate on Monday (March 19) after a petition calling for the drug Orkambi - believed to slow the decline of lung function in sufferers of cystic fibrosis and prolong their lives - to be made available on the NHS, reached 110,000 signatures.

To donate go to www.gofundme.com/S4SNS4N

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with Cheese, Mushrooms or Onions	£4.80	£6.50
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*When you collect your order from our shop.

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Veg Kebab	£2.90	£3.90

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Chicken Burger	£2.90	£4.10
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Spicy Chicken Fillet Burger	£3.20	£4.20
Veg Burger	£2.90	£3.60
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Battered Sausage	£1.40
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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Pro-EU millionaires are only interested in how much money they can make

I WOULD like to say 'well said, Frank Baybutt'.

His letter (March 7) regarding Gina Miller of the 'Best for Britain' group & co., hit the nail right on the head there.

The question I would like to ask Mrs Miller, Richard ('help me to repair hurricane damage to my private island') Branson and all the other pro-Europe millionaires is this. Will you make more money in Europe or out of Europe?

I've got a good idea what the answer would be.

This is all to do with their wealth, plain and simple.

Also, during the campaign in the run-up to the Brexit vote I found it a disgrace that the 'three stooges' - Cameron, Major and Blair - could go around factories etc.more or less stating that if we leave the EU we'll never sell anything abroad again because what we make is rubbish and only the Europeans bail us out buying it.

What a slight on the British worker and our manufacturing. Where is the pride for the average person when you've got this crew painting a picture of doom for the economy?

Watch out, readers, I've just seen the four horsemen of the apocalypse and they're heading this way.

C. Green, Aughton

Have we ever been told the truth about Europe?

REGARDING the various contributions to your newspaper relating to exiting the European Union, I would like to add this to the debate.

In June 1975 I voted to join the European Economic Community - nothing more, nothing less.

This was, in part, due to vociferous representations from Edward Heath, before signing the Treaty of Rome in 1973, and Harold Wilson as PM in 1975, that it would be a disaster if we didn't.

The electorate was assured membership would have no impact on our borders, law enforcement, legislation and courts.

Since that referendum, through the machinations and hubris of politicians of at least all three major parties, this was changed without further reference to the electorate.

Recently, Sir John Major, in his argument for another vote on remaining or leaving the EU, said it is necessary for the people to be told the truth.

Were we deprived of the truth in 1975 and throughout the intervening years?

A. Prescott, Scarisbrick

Never been so embarrased about the area we live in

I FEEL I have to tell you, through your column, about my experiences in the 'local area' on a recent weekend.

My daughter and son-in-law plus two grandchildren stayed with us for the weekend. They had travelled from the other side of Leeds in the snow to be with us.

We decided to go to the local swings on Saturday afternoon and after freezing in the cold made our way to the Royal Oak in Aughton for a pick-me-up. Six pumps on the bar and no beer, only lager! Went home for tea.

Next morning we decided to go to Park Pool for a swim. All but a couple of staff had phoned in sick so the baby pool was closed and we had to resort to the big pool with a three and a five-year-old!

On leaving decided to go into Wetherspoons in Ormskirk and couldn't find a seat. When we did, the chair looked like someone had puked on it so we left.

Thought we would go to the Dog and Gun near to where we live and guess what? Closed!

I have lived here for the last 40 years and have never been so embarrassed with my children as to the area we live in.

Pot holes everywhere, street lights half on, 20 mph speed limits that no one takes any notice of, previously mentioned lack of grass cutting, no police presence anywhere - the last time I saw a policeman around where I live he looked like Dixon of Dock Green - I am appalled.

Whenever I visit others I see a marked difference in environment and general cleanliness and an all-round better place to live in.

Come on, wake up and demand things change for the better as soon as possible before this place shuts down permanently.

John M. Brown, Aughton

PICTURE of the week

A workman is dwarfed by the giant 60 foot crane being used to lift a series of modular buildings into Southport Hospital to create an extension to the Accident and Emergency department. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Where are all the traffic wardens when we need them?

I THOUGHT for a while traffic wardens were extinct in Ormskirk, usually see them plodding around and dishing out tickets quite happily!

I've seen a few lately but not as active as they once were. Not a man to support a lot of tickets issued but surely something has to be done on Railway Road and especially Leyland Way?

There is a fatality waiting to happen with the pedestrian use and numerous vehicles entering and leaving the car park.

Every day there are several cars there but with no tickets on any of them on the double yellow lines.

Eddie Baker, by email

Renewable energy must be the future

IN response to Bryan Irving's letter (March 7) we could not agree more with his suggestion to start a renewable energy plan in West Lancs.

Renewable energy must be the future to keep us all safe and well to provide us with affordable energy sources.

We know that people are not keen on having the likes of solar panel farms and wind turbines in their own backyard, but look at the alternatives!

Let's all encourage West Lancs Borough Council to be forward thinking and start their own renewable energy plan.

Roz, Friends of the Earth, Ormskirk & District branch

Family parking spaces are where and what they are for a reason!

I WOULD just like to express my continued frustration with inconsiderate individuals who habitually park in the family spaces of Aldi car park.

As with the disabled spaces, these spaces are wider and closer to the store entrance for a reason.

Every week I watch childless people park in these spaces without any consideration for the parents/carers who actually require the space to be able to safely get their child/baby in and out of the car and not have to then walk the length of the car park with the baby.

Having already taken this up with Aldi directly, I have been advised that they rely on their customers' morals to utilise the spaces appropriately.

A significant amount of residents seem to have worringly lost their morals in this respect.

Angry car park user, by email

Borough declining at a rapid rate

WHY is West Lancashire being allowed to decline at a rapid rate?

We have no fully operational hospital (we hope that no family require hospital treatment as some will go to Ormskirk and others to Southport).

Police officers are a rarity on our streets. The carriageways and footpaths are in a poor condition, despite receiving Government grants. At night people are carrying torches due to the reduction in street lighting intensity.

In Up Holland we have no library or Post Office - this despite the council imposing a 5.65% increase in council tax (twice the rate of inflation) and a request for voluntary £100 donations!

But there is some good news we will soon be having yet another wheelie bin to further block the footpaths. Is this what the increase in council tax is for?

John Cooke, Up Holland

Time to show us what councillors actually do with our money

NOW would be the right time for the resident ratepayers silent majority to be advised on a regular basis what our councillors actually do.

A mandatory four reports a year to be submitted by each councillor about their portfolios and activities would be good.

We pay our rates and rents. The very least we expect is to be told in simple terms on a regular basis where and how our money is being used.

It is not shown in the annual financial report. A masterpiece of obfuscation.

We the silent majority are entitled to see what our councillors are being paid for and the amount of expenses claimed.

Graham P Walker, Up Holland

Make HMOs pay up!

COUNCILLORS are elected to represent the interests of residents, so I can't understand why landlords of student houses in Ormskirk don't have to pay council taxes.

These houses are businesses, the landlords take in thousands in rent, and the townsfolk are paying for their refuse collection!

Council tax is going up 5.65%, will people just shrug their shoulders forever, or do something to insist that HMOs pay business rate taxes from 2020?

Lise Sharkey, by email

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Libraries supporting Autism Awareness Week

STAFF at Lancashire libraries are to be given greater understanding of autism to help reduce isolation felt by autistic people and their families.

Libraries across the county are taking part in Autism Awareness Week (March 26 to April 2) and are also launching a new autism booklist which includes books suitable for adults, children and their carers. And throughout April staff will take part in a range of activities to increase their understanding of the condition.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "We're taking part in the national Autism Awareness Week as a platform to raise awareness amongst our staff.

"A campaign run by the National Autistic Society last year found that a lack of public understanding was leaving autistic people and their families socially isolated. We are doing something to tackle this."

County council launches consultation on doubling peak-time charge for disabled travel card users

LANCASHIRE County Council is consulting on proposals to increase the charge for residents who hold a disabled NoWcard to travel before 9.30am on weekdays, from 50p to £1.

The mandatory national concessionary travel scheme allows holders of a disabled person's pass to travel for free between 9.30am and 11pm Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and bank holidays.

Councils which operate the scheme locally have discretion to offer further concessions outside these times.

Lancashire's NoWcard scheme allows holders of a disabled person's pass to travel for a 50p flat fare on journeys on local buses which begin before 9.30am on Mondays to Fridays.

County Councillor Iddon

People are being asked to let the county council know how they would be affected if proposals are agreed to increase the charge to £1.

A consultation on the proposal was launched on Monday, (March 26) and will run until Monday, May 21.

County Councillor Keith Iddon, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Like many councils, we are facing an extremely challenging financial position, with a forecasted funding gap of £144m in 2021/22.

"To help reduce pressure on the budget we're proposing to increase the charge to travel before 9.30am on weekdays from 50p to £1. However we don't want to make a decision before considering how it will affect people and I'm grateful for people taking the time to respond to the consultation over the coming weeks."

You can respond online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/havey-oursay.

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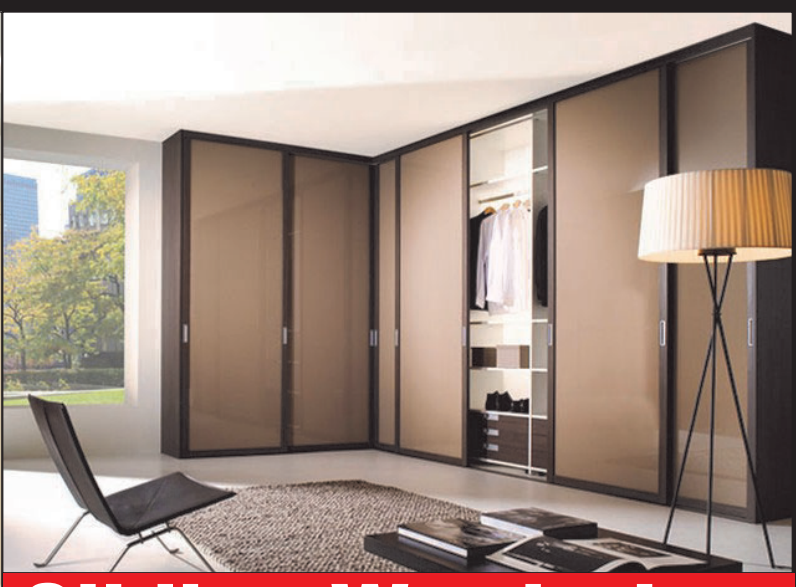

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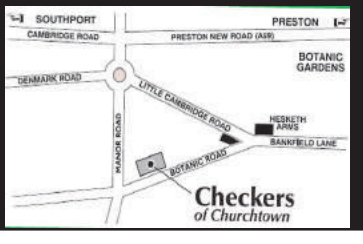

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New town-centre cafe bar marks opening with charity donation offer

A NEW restaurant cafe bar has opened in Ormskirk town centre creating 25 jobs - and aiming to give a boost to a West Lancs-based charity.

Following a £640k refit and occupying the site of the former Home Bargains store on Moor Street, Nordico Lounge is part of the Lounges bar and restaurant chain.

And during the first month of trading (from Wednesday, March 21) the company will be donating 50p from the sale of every burger and 10p from every coffee to Rainbow House in Mawdesley, which supports young people with neurological conditions and their families.

MP backs call to make ground-breaking cystic fibrosis treatment available on NHS

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper has joined a cross-party group of MPs in lobbying the Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Business Secretary Sajid Javid calling on the Government to expedite access to ground-breaking drugs for people with cystic fibrosis in England.

Questions over the long-term value, impact and cost-effectiveness of the drug, Orkambi, have so far restricted its use on the NHS, but now its manufacturer Vertex Pharmaceutical has submitted fresh proposals to NHS England and NICE, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

A letter to the ministers calls for a meeting, including with the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, to discuss the matter which is of the utmost urgency to the thousands of people and families that await progress.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper

West Lancs MP, Ms Cooper was keen to support the campaign on behalf of constituents and their families affected by the condition.

She said: "I was eager to add my name to this letter calling on Jeremy Hunt and Sajid Javid to provide greater access to drugs which could offer serious improvements to people with cystic fibrosis.

"Access to Orkambi and other ground-breaking drugs that support people with cystic fibrosis is important and could help many families here in West Lancashire."

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Bikers rev up the funds to help trauma centre buy vital equipment

Report by **Henry James**

A GROUP of motorcycle enthusiasts have raised thousands of pounds to benefit some of the most seriously ill patients in the North West.

The Scarisbrick and District Armada Motorcycle Club raised £15,000 from fundraising events last year, including their two Honda C90 'Plop' Enduro races.

They have donated the money to the trauma unit at Liverpool's Aintree University Hospital.

Aintree is home to the Cheshire and Merseyside Major Trauma Centre, which provides major trauma services to 2.3m residents in the North West and Isle of Man. The department contains state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, which enables much quicker treatment for the most seriously injured patients.

Officials of the Scarisbrick and District Armada Motorcycle Club hand over the cheque for £15,000 to members of the trauma unit at Liverpool's Aintree University Hospital.

Incredible

Graeme Young, from the Scarisbrick and District Armada Club, said: "Anyone involved in motorcycling will know someone who has needed hospital treatment following biking accidents, and we know what an incredible job trauma centres like the one at Aintree do. We're delighted to have been able to make this donation."

The money donated by the club will be used to buy a number of items, including specialist kit which will allow the hospital to be involved in a national research study evaluating a revolutionary and potentially life-saving treatment that is being developed across the UK.

The procedure, called Resuscitative Endovascular Balloon Occlusion (REBOA), is used to control severe bleeding and to temporarily stabilise the patient while they are resuscitated by the trauma team and prepared for rapid transfer into the operating theatre.

The money will also be used to buy specialist chairs which will allow patients to sit out of bed earlier and assist in their rehabilitation; and a specialist shower trolley which will allow patients with complex spinal injuries to be taken into the bathroom to have a full shower, which they are currently unable to do.

Julie Peacock, major trauma operational manager at Aintree, said: "We are so grateful to the S&D Armada Club for their generosity.

"We wanted to use this money to buy kit which we wouldn't otherwise have the luxury of having and we decided on these pieces of equipment after lengthy discussions with our clinical teams. They will make a huge difference to so many of our patients while they are in our care."

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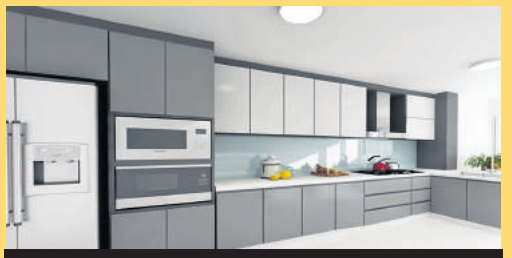

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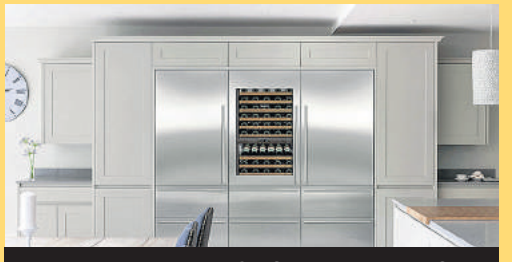

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Pervert priest watched child abuse on internet

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

A PERVERTED Roman Catholic priest secretly watched videos of children being raped in online conference chat rooms.

Father Thomas Wood, who held a senior position in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, which covers the southern area of Lancashire, spent time late at night viewing the disgusting images in internet rooms along with up to 50 other paedophiles.

Liverpool Crown Court heard that the sickening footage included children as young as eight being sexually abused by adults.

Simon Duncan, prosecuting, said: "The prosecution arises from a multi-national investigation set up into paedophiles abusing video conferencing facilities and Wood was caught in by the US Department of Homeland Security who contacted British authorities in February 2017."

The National Crime Agency discovered Wood used his iPad to access such conferences on chat room site Zoom in November 2015.

Just before midnight on November 12, Wood was watching a video showing children aged 10 to 16 being abused. He logged on again at around 1am and joined 50 people looking at a girl, aged eight to 10, being raped by a man.

On November 13, just before 2am, he was one of 50 perverts who watched two boys having sex.

When arrested, Wood told police: "I may have looked at something on the internet."

Mr Duncan said: "He said he wanted to meet other men and watch them [perform lewd acts]. He claimed he had no sexual interest in children."

When interviewed in June, Wood suggested he threw the iPad away because it was faulty, but police seized his mobile phone and hard drive. They provided evidence of him chatting about his sexual interest in children, but he again denied this to officers but three temporary internet files were found.

Wood's internet address led police to the presbytery of Our Lady's Church in Lydiate. He had a dual role at that church and at St Gregory The Great in Lydiate but stepped down when arrested last March.

Wood, 55, of Liverpool Road, Birkdale who was formerly a long-serving priest at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Seaforth, pleaded guilty to making and possessing three indecent images in the most serious category.

Damian Nolan, defending, said Wood, has voluntarily sought help from a child sex abuse charity.

Judge Clement Goldstone, QC, the Recorder of Liverpool, said Wood had written a letter which was "one of the most powerful statements of mitigation the court has ever considered."

He continued, "It's apparent that you are well aware of the enormous harm that is done to young children who are exposed to the type of abuse."

The judge said: "During that period you were wrestling with demons and there came a time when the demons got the upper hand."

The judge imposed a three-year community order and ordered him to carry out up to 30 days rehabilitation activities and to take part in a sexual treatment programme. He also ordered him to sign on the Sex Offenders Register for five years and he imposed a seven-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

As he left the dock, a woman in the public gallery, shouted: "Shame on you."

Father Thomas Wood

Joycelyn Neve, managing director of The Seafood Pub Company, receives the award

Pub company serves up recipe for success

THE Seafood Pub Company, owner of the Town Green Brasserie in Aughton has scooped an award for Best Food Offer at the prestigious Publican Awards in London.

The food offer from the company, which has 10 pubs in the North West including the Town Green Lane venue, was described as 'quality, creative, colourful, different, versatile and value for money'.

Joycelyn Neve, managing director of the company, attended the ceremony to collect the award from Bruce Ray, vice-president of corporate affairs and independent trade at event sponsor, Carlsberg UK.

She said: "This is the third time in four years we have been recognised in this award, which is an amazing accolade.

"A pie and a pint is just as important as lobster and champagne to us and when we see both of these dishes being enjoyed by guests at the same table, we know we've done our job well."

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This silly habit of starting every sentence with 'so' is so annoying!

A LITTLE time ago I had a moan about a fairly recent and enormously irritating habit that folk - particularly but not only, younger ones - have picked up of answering any given (or even implied) question by beginning with 'so....'

I had hoped this extremely silly and pointless expression would simply die a death but unhappily the opposite seems to have happened and this stupid habit seems to be becoming almost customary with people of all ages, sexes and, I'm sorry to say, intelligence too.

But for sanity's sake, why?

The only context I can think of where 'so' would be in any way useful would be in answer to a question such as "why are you catching the train?" with the answer in this case possibly being "so I can get there more quickly."

But if I am asked where I am going for my holidays what possible sense would it make if I replied, as apparently many would these days, "so, I am going to Norfolk"? The plain fact is that used at the beginning of a sentence so means because and even that is probably superfluous in most cases.

I have no idea where this stupid waste of a word sprang from, perhaps some so-called celeb or other. And if so, how on earth does this persuade otherwise sensible folk to follow suit?

What brought this all to a head again was my watching *MasterChef* on telly last night - one of my favourite programmes at the moment after *The Onedin Line* and old *Star Trek* episodes, both thankfully free of 'so'.

Half of the would-be chefs were answering questions about their culinary efforts with the dreaded so! If anyone out there has a defence for this abuse of the language, I would be delighted to hear it.

Actually, there are a couple of points about *MasterChef* itself which rather puzzle me.

Firstly, the insistence of judges John Torode and Greg Wallace that dishes MUST be ready for serving in a given period. I'm not saying the contestants should be allowed minutes over, but to insist the dish should be plated up before 'time' is called, sometimes leaving the would-be chef with, say, gravy, sorry, sauce, on his or her face rather than on the plate, is to my mind pedantic in the extreme. After all, these are enthusiastic amateurs, not chefs in a five-star restaurant.

And secondly, in the round I watched last night stars from previous *MasterChef* contests were invited guests to be treated to offerings from this year's crop of hopefuls.

These three new 'experts' thoroughly disliked the two offerings of one contestant and obviously had it been up to them she would have been the one to be shown the door. The problem was though that John and Greg disagreed totally with their critique so she sailed through to the quarter-finals.

Now I reckon that John in particular really knows his stuff when it comes to the technical competence of a given chef, while Greg appears more to be the representative of the ordinary person as to how good (or otherwise) a dish tastes. So in all probability the correct decision was made - but what then was the point in having these rather puffed-up guests giving their second-hand opinions in the first place?

Mind you, some apparently modern trends in serving up food totally fox me too. This idea, apparently gaining enough ground so as not to raise a judge's eyebrows, is to serve up the meal on a flat mat, with little bowls of this or that separate - in effect, a bit like eating your meal off the tablecloth.

Nothing really wrong with the idea, but why?

"So, I saw somebody else doing it and thought it a neat idea" perhaps?

Artefacts found during renovation of historic hall

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WORK to restore the historic Bank Hall near Tarleton has revealed a number of interesting artefacts, according to members of conservation group, Friends of Bank Hall.

The Jacobean hall, which was last occupied in 1971 and had become derelict, is currently undergoing extensive restoration work following a Heritage Lottery award of £2.2million

Work started last summer and is expected to take 18 months. The work is being carried out by Next Big Thing Developments and their contractors have spent many months painstakingly clearing out the hall's interior.

The Friends of Bank Hall, say that the clear-out has revealed many interesting artefacts that give some insight into the lifestyle of past residents of the building and also provides vital information on its history, parts of which date back to 1608.

Discoveries have included a large stone carved with the initials A B, thought to be those of Adam Bannister the original founder of the hall. And remains of the original ornate plasterwork and fireplace tiles have also been found.

The Friends, working with Heritage Trust for the North West, have campaigned to save the building for more than 20 years and say they are delighted to see work finally progressing which will give it a new lease of life.

When the work is complete the Friends will be based in the restored Prospect Tower and central vestibule spaces of the hall where they will host exhibitions and educational seminars.

Meanwhile, the Friends are holding an Easter Bunny Hunt on Sunday, April 1 from 12 to 4pm at the site, where children will be invited to find Easter bunnies hidden in grounds to win a chocolate Easter egg. Entry is £2 for adults with children admitted free but with a small fee for taking part in the bunny hunt.

Restoration work on historic Bank Hall which started last summer is expected to take 18 months to complete.

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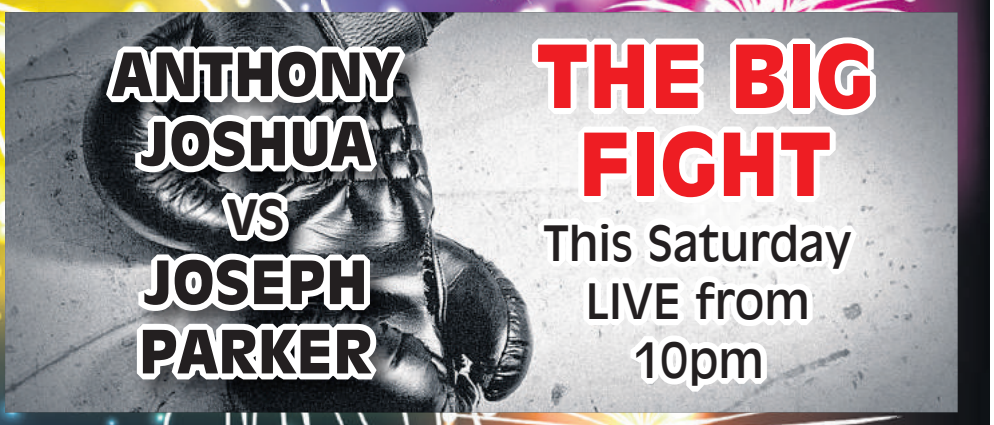

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MP accuses county council of ignoring West Lancs issues

ROSIE Cooper has accused Lancashire County Council of ignoring complaints by West Lancs residents.

The MP says she has faced waiting times recently of up to three-and-a-half months for responses to her correspondence, when representing the issues of constituents.

Ms Cooper says that hundreds of residents write to her each month with issues and concerns many of which fall under the remit of the county council.

But she claims a handful of cases are still outstanding from 2017, while more than 20 are still waiting for a response after four weeks or more.

She said: "It seems that Lancashire County Council are in complete disarray. For any organisation to take more than three months to respond to a communication is shocking and LCC seems to forget that the county council is funded by the council taxpayers of West Lancashire, as well as other parts of Lancashire. They really do need to get their act together and start serving the residents of West Lancashire as they are paid to do.

"I will be meeting with the chief executive, Angie Ridgwell, in the coming weeks to seek answers to all of my outstanding casework issues and attempt to get an agreed timeframe for responses which meets my constituents' needs."

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Opticians recognised for support of staff welfare

THE Ormskirk branch of Specsavers has received the company's Platinum Employer accreditation in recognition of its continued efforts in career development and the support of employee welfare.

Platinum Employer status is measured by five indicators of the employee experience, including talent management, recruitment and induction, and performance management and reward.

Neil Pearson, ophthalmic director at the branch in Church Street, credits the store's success to his team of talented professionals.

He said: "We count ourselves lucky to have a great variety of professionals working here, who have decades of experience under their belt.

Loyalty

"This award is down entirely to their expertise and dedication which has fostered a brilliant working environment in which new talent can really flourish.

"Their loyalty means we can deliver an amazing service to our customers and give back to the community through employment opportunities. We are always looking at how we can improve as an employer and this is a fantastic reward for the team's continued hard work and enthusiasm."

Specsavers director of human resources, Mark Moorton, added: "The Platinum Employer scheme is an exciting new addition to our portfolio of training and development programmes, helping our staff to benefit from the opportunity of a full-career journey from entry-level to store owner."

County's new coroners sworn in

THE official Swearing of Oath ceremony for the new Coroners Service for Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen was held in Lancaster Castle. Coroners and assistant coroners gathered for the ceremony conducted by the outgoing High Sheriff of Lancashire, Robert Mitchel Webb.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Local slimmer Fiona was 'Amazed' when she discovered Slimming World, be inspired by her story:

"When I was refused life insurance because of my weight and my doctor told me that I would have to have cholesterol tablets for life, I knew it was time to do something. I looked at weight loss surgery and apart from the high cost, the diet was truly restrictive. I had had some success with Slimming World in the past and knew the real benefits of Food Optimising. A few of my friends had lost weight with Slimming World, so I decided to go with them – safety in numbers!

In my group, I found a room full of people who all wanted the same thing, to lose weight. We share recipe ideas, celebrate weight losses, and give each other moral support in person or through Facebook. Without the support of our Consultant and my love group, I do not think I would have stuck at it. Slimming World is not about what you cannot eat but filling yourself, and I mean filling, with the right foods so you are not reaching for the wrong foods.

I love to cook so I find Slimming World a match made in heaven. Breakfast - spinach and mushroom omelette or cauliflower toasties. Lunch – is either a baked potato with salad or if I am on the go – shop brought chicken and cherry tomatoes. Dinner is the best part, so many delicious family friendly meals to choose from but I love Slimming World chips with steak or slow cooked ginger and orange pulled pork. Desserts, I love my own Eton mess. Snacks – I am a big berry lover, apples, pears or melons and Mullerlight yoghurts. When I want a treat, I reach for kid size treats chocolate, choc shots on orange segments or a curly whirly. And eating all this I've gone from squeezing into a pair of size 20 jeans to a size 12 and an amazing 3.5 stone weight loss so far!"

be amazing

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Paula: 07484 263698

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
11am & 1pm
Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY

AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
NEW CONSULTANT
Sarah: 07792 146342

FRIDAY

ORMSKIRK
New Pavilion
Ormskirk Cricket Club
Altys Lane
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close (Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
NEW CONSULTANT
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School,
Aughton Street, Ormskirk
10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines (behind Fun Factor)
Saturday 9am & 11am
Gill: 07921 222405

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Hospital set to stage special health check event to mark World Kidney Day

STAFF at Southport Hospital will be running a special event for residents to check how well their kidneys are functioning.

The Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust is celebrating World Kidney Day by hosting an information and awareness stand from 10am to 4pm on Thursday, April, 12.

The stand is being presented by Doctor Raza and Doctor Wong from the trust's nephrology (kidney) department along with the members of Southport Kidney Fund, who provide assistance to all patients with kidney failure. Theme of this year's stand is 'kidney disease and obesity.'

Ann Glover, chair of Southport Kidney Fund, said: "Southport Kidney Fund is a charity run by patients and carers for other local patients, adults and children, who are pre-dialysis, on dialysis or transplanted.

"I was on dialysis for nearly seven years while waiting for a transplant. Then 12 years ago my son gave me a kidney for which I can never repay him.

"The transplant has freed me from dialysis and prolonged my life but I still have a lot of health difficulties. Life is never the same after kidney failure. We need to raise awareness of this life-threatening problem."

Dr Hasnain Raza, consultant physician and nephrologist at the trust, added: "Kidney diseases affects more than three million people in the UK but it can go undetected as people often have no symptoms.

"The good news is that depending on the problem, early detection, changes in lifestyle - including taking more exercise - and a healthy diet can often slow down the progression of the disease, delaying the possible need for dialysis or transplantation."

The main kidney problems are infections, kidney stones, cancer, kidney disease and acute kidney injury.

Kidney infections are usually the result of bacteria in the bladder travelling up to the kidneys. They can cause lower back or genital pain, pain when peeing, blood in your pee, cloudy and smelly pee, feeling feverish, shivery or sick.

These types of infections are more common in women. They can usually be successfully treated with antibiotic tablets and painkillers.

The team marking World Kidney Day last year

Milly and Lacy after their chocolate-eating scare

Vet's 'keep your dogs away from Easter eggs' warning

WITH families possibly stockpiling chocolate eggs ahead of Easter a local vet has warned dog owners of the dangers of chocolate poisoning to their canine companions.

The reminder of the toxicity of cocoa to man's best friend - which can lead to severe harm including coma - comes as the Rufford Veterinary Group tells of one pet's lucky escape.

The group, which has small animal practices in Ormksirk and Southport, and a horse treatment centre in Holmeswood, says that the owner of two cockerpoos, Milly and Lacy, thought they had hidden the chocolate eggs only for pooches' supersensitive noses to sniff them out.

And by the time the owner realised what had happened the pair had eaten four eggs between them, the equivalent of about 400g of chocolate, with Milly the chief culprit.

Thankfully, the animal healthcare experts said, the owner was quick to work out what had happened and rushed the dogs to the practice for treatment.

Upon arrival they were administered a drug to make them vomit and then fed 'activated charcoal' which helps prevent toxins being absorbed by the digestive system.

And after initially displaying hyperactive behaviour the dogs made a full recovery.

Rufford Veterinary Group surgeon, Iain Fraser, said: "Chocolate contains a compound called theobromine which can be toxic to our canine chums even if consumed in very small quantities. Chocolate poisoning can cause severe harm to your dog, so it is important to act quickly.

"The initial symptoms are vomiting and diarrhoea, but it can take up to 12 hours for the symptoms to become fully apparent, so if you discover your dog has eaten chocolate, contact your vet as soon as possible."

Other chocolate poisoning symptoms include hyperactivity; excessive thirst; panting/rapid breathing; rapid or slow heart rate; high temperature; restlessness; hyperthermia; tremors or muscle spasms; seizures and coma.

Theobromine is more toxic to cats but cats are less prone to eating chocolate since they are unable to taste sweetness.

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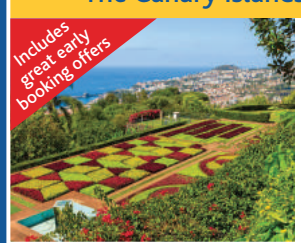

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Young book lovers rise to reading challenge

Tenzin Lhamo

YOUNG book lovers Amaira Jaidka and Tenzin Lhamo have successfully completed the Lancashire Reading Trail Challenge at Skelmersdale Library.

Seven-year-old Amaira and eight-year-old Tenzin were presented with gold certificates by staff at the library in Southway after they completed the challenge by reading 50 books.

After reading the titles the pair reviewed and rated them and shared their recommendations with other LRT readers.

They also get to choose a book to keep as reward for their efforts.

A spokeswoman for Skelmersdale Library said: "Well done, Amaira and Tenzin on a fantastic achievement!"

The Lancashire Reading Trail is a county- wide reading challenge that encourages children up to the age of 12 to read more.

For further details about the reading trail and how to get involved, go to www.lancashire.gov.uk or pop in to your local library.

Amaira Jaidka

Nursing home's Easter bingo night raises £1,300

IT was eyes down, look in for a bumper fundraising boost when Stocks Hall Nursing Home Burscough held their annual Easter prize bingo at the Stanley Institute in Liverpool Road North.

The event was packed with friends, family and staff, raising a grand total of £1,300 for the Residents' Fund

The evening was split into two halves with refreshments and homemade cakes provided by the home at the interval.

It was also supported by numerous local businesses and prizes included luxurious chocolate Easter hampers.

Sammi Molyneux, manager of Stocks Hall, Burscough, thanked the local community for their continued support.

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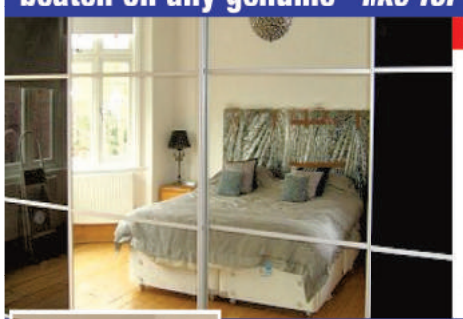

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Mere's Easter Duck Hunt is a 'quacking' family day out

MARTIN Mere's Giant Easter Duck Hunt is a 'quacking' day out for the family!

That's the verdict of Champion reporter, Danielle Thompson, who ventured to the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust on Fish Lane in Burscough with a friend and two children for the family-friendly Dusty's Giant Hunt, which runs until Sunday, April 8.

Here's what she found...

I hadn't been to Martin Mere for years, so I didn't really know what to expect but the hunt is a really fun, family-themed activity for all ages.

My friend's two young children were really excited to find as many of the foot-long yellow plastic ducks as possible.

The point of the competition, which costs 50p to enter, is to find 25 ducks, all with names hung around their neck which start with a different letter of the alphabet - and there are tricky names to stop you cheating!

The ducks are hidden all over, from the play area to behind bushes and there's even one cheeky duck up a tree!

And finding the letter that has no named duck to accompany it wins you a healthy snack bar, although I did see some kindly staff letting young players off with less-than-perfect scorecards!

Youngsters Jenson and Maisy McLoughlin enjoying the Easter Giant Duck Hunt at Martin Mere

It was certainly a novel twist on a relaxing day out, as the kids enjoy adding a sense of competition and it makes them even more excited to explore the Mere's different sections, housing birds from Africa, Australasia, North America, South America, Siberia, and Asia, which are ringed by 11 observation hides.

As well as the hunt and trips to see the 'stars' of Martin Mere - the flamingos, storks and otters - and hear about them, as well as watch them being fed, we were also able to enjoy a spot of pond-dipping, using little child-proof nets and trays to discover grubs including snails, water boatmen and water louses, which look like swimming woodlice.

There is also a play area, colouring in and painting sessions, canoe safari and boat trips, a set of three wooden teepees and a huge yurt, as well as a mud hut, plus stone steps jutting out of the edge of one of the ponds, which are great fun for little ones to hop along in their wellies.

Overall, a great, family-friendly activity session which we managed to stretch out to a full day!'

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This course is for experienced domestic sewers

Course Content: Pattern cutting and all aspects of garment construction. Demonstrate your own style with your own bespoke shirt or blouse.

Course Time & Dates: **Thursday 6pm-9pm**

April 12th
April 19th
April 26th
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COST: £100

UPHOLSTERY 5 WEEK COURSE COVER YOUR OWN CHAIR WITH *TOM HOGG*

Maximum 3 Participants

Course Content: Join Tom as you delve into the fabulous world of upholstery you will leave the course with confidence and skills to tackle new projects on your own

Course Time & Dates: **Saturday 9.30pm-12.30pm**

April 28th **May 19th**
May 5th **May 26th**
May 12th

COST: £250

HOW TO FOLLOW A PATTERN AND MAKE A GARMENT 4 WEEK COURSE WITH TUTOR *MICHELLE*

Basic knowledge and experience of using a sewing machine

Course Content: This course will show you how to follow a commercial pattern and make a garment from scratch. Ideally suited if you are going to a wedding or the races. Participants will bring their own pattern and fabric

Course Time & Dates: **Saturday 9.30pm-12.30pm**

April 21st **May 5th**
April 28th **May 12th**

COST: £100

LEARN HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN ROMAN BLIND 4 WEEK COURSE WITH *CATH CARMICHAEL*

Course Content: Learn to create your own bespoke Roman blinds

Course Time & Dates: **Saturday 1pm-4pm**

April 21st
April 28th
May 5th
May 12th

COST: £100 Plus cost of fixtures and fittings depending on blind size

BEGINNERS SEWING 4 WEEK COURSE WITH TUTOR *LAURA DOVE*

Maximum 6 Participants

Course Content: Using a domestic sewing machine, making a tote bag, make-up bag, cutting and tracing a commercial pattern, soft furnishings including making cushion types, envelope, square, oblong

Course Time & Dates: **Tuesday 6pm-9pm**

April 17th
April 24th
May 1st
May 8th

COST: £100

UPHOLSTERY 5 WEEK COURSE COVER YOUR OWN CHAIR WITH *TOM HOGG*

Maximum 3 Participants

Course Content: Join Tom as you delve into the fabulous world of upholstery you will leave the course with confidence and skills to tackle new projects on your own chair

Course Time & Dates: **Wednesday 10am-1pm**

April 18th
April 25th
May 2nd
May 9th
May 16th

COST: £250

CURTAIN MAKING 4 WEEK COURSE WITH *CATH CARMICHAEL*

Course Content: You will learn techniques such as hemming, how tot make lined and unlined curtains, learn how to make a variety of headings as well ring top and tab top.

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High school's swimmers make a splash at county gala

SPORTY pupils from West Lancashire Community High School proved splash hits in this year's SPAR Lancashire School Games Disability Swimming Gala at the Salt Ayre Leisure Centre, Lancaster.

Youngsters from the School Lane site did the district proud, bringing home a total of 34 medals - 10 gold, 14 silver and 10 bronze.

Megan Moore, scooped gold in the key stage five girls 25m breaststroke, while Rochelle Nelson also struck gold in the key stage five girls 50m front crawl, as well as taking bronze in the 25m front crawl.

Further success followed with silvers in the egg, flip and wobble race and freestyle race, while Kayne Gillard and Morgan Thorpe also both claimed silver in the key stage three and four 50m front crawl competitions.

During the day, children also had the opportunity to participate in wheel chair basketball and handball taster sessions with Andy Whitaker, from the Football Association and Mark Stephenson from Lancashire Sport Partnership.

Chris Hart, school games organiser for West Lancashire, said: "Each year I am blown away by the enthusiasm shown by participants representing their school within the district.

"Congratulations to everyone who managed to secure themselves a medal from West Lancashire this year. The games would also not be possible without the support of the young sports leaders who volunteer to aid us in delivering such a successful event."

The Disability Swimming Gala is the first of two main events in the Lancashire School Games calendar. More than 3,500 children from schools across the county's 15 districts are currently battling it out for a place at the finals which will be held at Blackpool's Stanley Park on July 3. Schools will compete in 16 sports this year, including gymnastics, football, athletics, mixed cricket and touch rugby.

Military enthusiasts group geared up for latest display

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE next military-themed event at the Heatons Bridge Inn in Scarisbrick is scheduled for the weekend of April 7 and 8.

Military enthusiasts have been meeting at the venue for 50 years and the group is now formally recognised as the Mid-Lancs Area of the national Military Vehicle Trust.

The group hosts meetings every six months featuring a display of military vehicles, weapons and equipment.

The event on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, is expected to include a small re-enactment display of the American 82nd Airborne Division.

Heatons Bridge Inn, which is run by Steve and Jacqui Winrow and located on Heatons Bridge Road, has retained a Second World War free-standing brick pillbox which formed part of the Home Guard defence provisions on the grounds.

As done previously, it is planned to set up a small Home Guard display inside the pillbox to give visitors a 'feel' of what it might have been like for a soldier to have been holed up there.

Anyone with a military or military-related vehicle or camp display is welcome to join the group and camp over for the weekend.

The event is also family-friendly and members of the public are invited to visit the displays and chat with the participants. There are no entry fees.

The exhibition runs all day on the Saturday and through to Sunday lunchtime with the group setting up the site on the Friday.

Organisers advise that visitors bring wellies due to the possibility of wet weather and muddy conditions.

To join in the exhibition or for more details contact Paul Connolly on 01704 545786 or Angela Brown on 07774931464.

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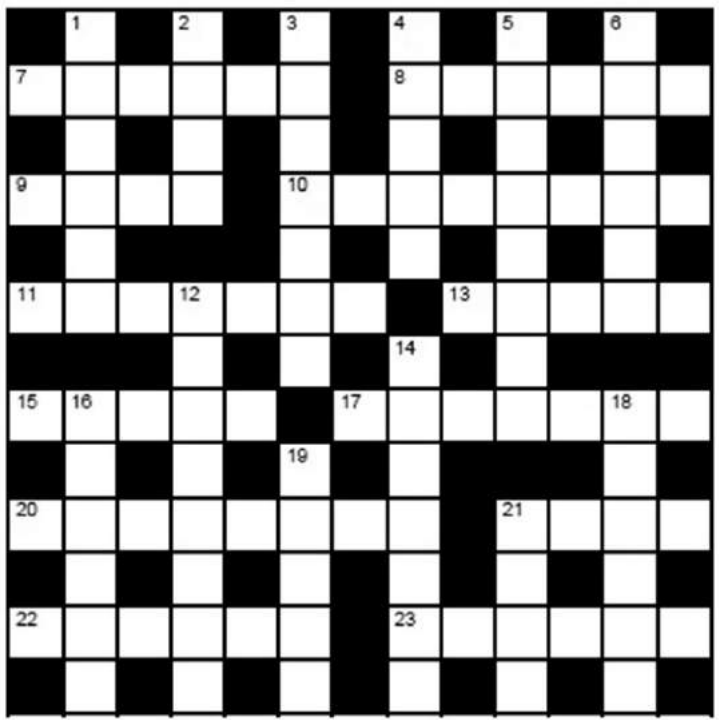

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Let rip. 8. Coupon. 9. Zinc. 10. Reassess. 11. Adenoid. 13. Cavil. 15. Crept. 16. Clothes. 18. Allocate. 19. Avow. 21. Scribe. 22 Dilute.

Down: 1. Deli. 2. Arachnophobia. 3. Upbraid. 4. Ocean. 5. Substantially. 6. Solstice. 12. Derelict. 14. Already. 17. Jaded. 20. Oath.

ACROSS

7. Quirk, idiosyncrasy (6)
8. School exam usually taken by pupils aged 17 or 18 (1, 5)
9. Amusingly unconventional, eccentric (4)
10. Cloth for drying washed crockery, cutlery, glasses etc. (3, 5)
11. Put someone to death by nailing or binding them to a cross (7)
13. Unadventurous, conventional (5)
15. The short, thick first digit of the human hand (5)
17. With facial hair (7)
20. Time at which a planned operation is set to begin (4, 4)
21. Make a flattened, stitched fold in a garment or material (4)
22. Father or mother (6)
23. Touring group of entertainers (6)

DOWN

1. A market, typically in a Middle Eastern country (6)
2. Not difficult (4)
3. Bewilder or perplex (7)
4. Deadly (5)
5. Aquatic marine mammal of North Pacific coasts, formerly hunted for its dense fur (3, 5)
6. A native of Sana'a or Aden for instance (6)
12. A person who writes music, especially as a professional occupation (8)
14. Town in Cornwall, formerly centre of the county's mining industry (7)
16. Loud, harsh, cry of a donkey or mule (3-3)
18. Not including, other than (6)
19. Valuable stolen goods, especially those seized in war (5)
21. Hammer-wielding Norse god (4)

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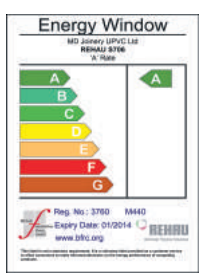

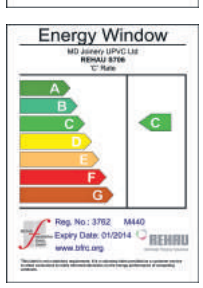

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The cast of The Cemetery Club

Tickets on sale for The Cemetery Club

ORMSKIRK Theatre Company's next play is The Cemetery Club.

Take three Jewish widows in New York, who meet regularly to visit their husbands' graves, add in a widower visiting his wife's grave and you have all the ingredients for a sharp, witty, moving and heartwarming comedy by the playwright Ivan Menchell.

Tickets are now on sale at The Tony and online at www.ormskirktheatrecompany.co.uk

The show will be staged from Wednesday 4 to Friday, April 6 at 7.30pm Toby Carvery Ormskirk. For more information call 07757 416560.

Club presenting poignant play

THE Southport Dramatic Club's next play at the Little Theatre is Be My Baby.

Directed by Les Gomersall, the production is a musical drama by Ladies Day playwright, Amanda Whittingham.

It tells the story of 19-year-old Mary Adams whose mother sends her to a Mother & Baby Home because she is seven months pregnant and, to the family's shame, unmarried.

Mary has to cope with the dawning realisation that she will have to give the baby up for adoption irrespective of whether she wants to or not but, despite an imperious matron, she soon becomes friendly with the other young residents and their fortunes are followed by an accompaniment of well-loved songs from the Swinging Sixties.

The show opens on Friday, April 6

Rehearsals for Be My Baby

until Saturday, April 14 at 7.30pm each evening. Tickets from the Box Office Tel. 530521/530460.

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TV historian Michael Wood to officially open new Viking show

TV HISTORIAN and broadcaster Michael Wood is to officially open the Viking: Rediscover the Legend exhibition at a special private preview on Thursday, March 29.

The Atkinson was chosen as it is the only North West venue to have the touring exhibition in partnership with the British Museum and the Yorkshire Museum.

Special guest have been invited to the opening of the event that sees the most significant Viking treasure hoards ever discovered in Britain on display for the first time together.

Star objects from the British Museum will feature alongside the Yorkshire Museum's world-class collections and will be interpreted in new ways to give a fresh perspective on how Vikings shaped every aspect of life in Britain.

Visitors will see the most famous Viking collections in this country, including the Vale of York Viking Hoard, Cuerdale Hoard and the Bedale Hoard.

As well as featuring "ground-breaking" research by archaeologists and new discoveries by metal-detectorists which will challenge our perceptions of what it means to be Viking.

As part of the celebrations Michael Wood will be delivering a special talk and book signing on Thursday, March 29 at 3pm-Vikings! History and Legend with Michael Wood. Tickets are on sale for £10 and all proceeds are going to The Atkinson Development Trust.

Michael Wood

Michael Wood TV Historian & broadcaster said: "I'm really looking forward to being back in Southport for the Vikings launch.

"It's a brilliant exhibition with some really fascinating and unique items, including extraordinary treasures from Viking hoards buried in the North West-one or two discovered only very recently. The Vikings left a real imprint on our region, on its society, dialect and place-names.

"In the Middle Ages, as St Patrick said, the Irish Sea was mare nostrum, 'our sea', and it was criss-crossed by Viking longships sailing to and from Dublin, Anglesey Cumbria and Chester with warriors and pirates, traders and travellers: no wonder then that south Lancashire and the Wirral were the setting for some of the most dramatic events of this turbulent time.

"In my talk I'll be talking about those events, weaving stories around some of the most exciting and intriguing exhibits."

Cllr Trish Hardy, Sefton Council's cabinet member communities and housing said: "The Liverpool City Region is truly proving to be a powerhouse for cultural tourism this year with Vikings and the Chinese Terracotta Army – both with such national and worldwide significance.

"This is a great time for both Sefton and the wider city regions' tourism ambitions. It's also a testament to the wonderful Atkinson and its staff that we can host such incredible exhibitions such as the Vikings all year round."

Viking: Rediscover the Legend opens to the public on Saturday, March 31 with a special family open day. Come and see the two Viking Ships and Viking re-enactments showing people how life was like for the Vikings and making themed artefacts.

Viking: Rediscover the Legend is on display from Saturday, March 31 – Saturday, July 7. Tickets are on sale now online at theatkinson.co.uk via Box Office 01704 533333 or over the counter. .

Miss Saigon takes audiences on an emotional roller coaster

Review by Henry James

THE mega-musical Miss Saigon is back in Manchester for the first time since 2001.

This production is the revival, which was first performed in the West End in 2014 at the Prince Edward Theatre and was staged to mark the 25th anniversary of the musical.

The story of Miss Saigon is taken from Giacomo Puccini's opera Madame Butterfly, and the musical is written by Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil, the team behind Les Miserables.

This show has as much emotional punch as Les Mis, and the action is full on from the start until the finish.

The plot centres around American Gi Chris (Ashley Gilmour), who spends a night with Kim (Sooha Kim), and then falls in love with her. The pair work well together and I think the audience feels more sympathy with Kim as she puts too much faith in Chris.

Sooha Kim is an amazing singer who is able to belt out some powerful and complex numbers with aplomb, such as I'd Give My Life For You.

The Engineer (Red Concepcion) owns the brothel where Chris and Kim meet.

Although the character is sinister, he also provides humour as well. The Engineer's famous musical number is The American Dream. Red's performance of that song was met with rapturous applause on the night I went, and deservedly so.

Ashley Gilmour as Chris and Sooha Kim as Kim in Miss Saigon. Image by Johan Persson

Miss Saigon is well-known for its set pieces and the revival has kept the famous helicopter scene, which is a breathtaking piece of live theatre. How do they manage to do that?

However this show is not just about its set pieces and it also has plenty of heart as well. It also highlights a number of issues, such as the consequences of the Vietnam War. No better is this shown in the number Bui Doi which is powerfully performed by John (Ryan O'Gorman).

The song is about children who were born during the Vietnam War and have an America soldier as a father and a mother who is Vietnamese.

The music of this production might not be as well-known as Les Miserables, but it has some good numbers, such as The Heat Is On and Last Night of the World, and the touring production has an extensive orchestra.

This musical, which can be seen until May 12 at the Palace Theatre, takes audiences on an emotional roller coaster. 9/10

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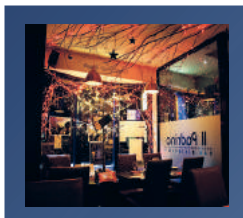

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HOUSE AND HOME

COFFEE TABLE Modern glass coffee table with safety glass and two further tables that go underneath Very useful set £65 01704564732

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THREE WHEEL FOLDING SHOPPING AID With bag on front only used once like new cost £50 sell for £30 07929713465

DRIVE SCOUT Mobility scooter, dismantles into four pieces ideal for shopping or for putting in the car boot £300 07599 614476

SELF PROPELLED wheelchair, very comfortable, easy to use, can deliver £65 Southport 214498

3 WHEELED Walker blue bag, basket, good condition £20 01772 812767

GO LITE Self propelled wheelchair in good condition £50 07902130751

WHEELCHAIR NEARLY NEW Cost £180 selling for £75 07929713465

LYNX SCOOTER Good condition £400 07902130751

MOTHER AND BABY

MOSES BASKETSTAND Mothercare rocking wooden stand for moses basket ex cond bought as second stand for grandparents cost £30 £12 maghull area 0151 4760521

VINTAGE BATH in storage stand, newly painted and in spotless clean condition. £50 07976556270

MOTHER AND BABY

BED GUARD folding Tomy bed guard, blue, as new £7 0151 9281955

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HEAVY TRAILER 6'6" x 4' Tailgate, ladder rack, spare wheel, Some rot in bottom of sides. Use as is or restore. £120 07719 863755

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NISSAN SPACESAVER Spare wheel kit:- Wheel, tyre, jack, wrench. All unused for Nissan Qashqai or similar. £95 01704 875011

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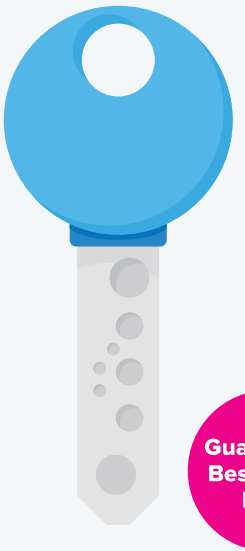

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0213/FUL Creation of balancing pond, reed bed, constructional training facility and access track at Cast North West Eco Centre, Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
2018/0234/FUL Increase in ridge height of part of dwelling, new rear dormer and replacement side porch at 484 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
2018/0259/FUL Erection of 29 dwellings (25 houses and 4 apartments), garages, estate road and related development at Land To The West Of, Oasis Close, Rufford.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0274/FUL Covered Silage Clamp (Agricultural) at Home Farm, Lathom Park, Lathom.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0275/FUL Alterations to form 10 bed HMO - 6 bedrooms and 4 studio bedrooms at 50 St Helens Road, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
2018/0277/FUL Existing property to be finished with render. Removal of garage doors and replace with windows. Re-build existing dry stone wall to front boundary at 49 Farley Lane, Roby Mill, Up Holland.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 28th March 2018
PDNOT990

Easter Bank Holiday DEADLINES

The deadline for Private Advertisers for publication on **Wednesday 4th April** is as follows:

Telephone Bookings 4pm - Thurs 29th March
Internet Bookings Midnight - Mon 2nd April

Visit **www.champnews.com** for further details

PETS

AQUARIUM FISHTANK 360 marina ,10L,filtration system ,led lights,removable cover,from pets at home 25cmx25cm approx good condition £20 07708836403

RAT/GUINEA PIG cages. One 46x23 - £30. Second one 39x21- £25. Both brown, second one used temporarily, both excellent condition 07590 336533

WICKER CAT Bed, unused size 20"x16" £10 01704 872037

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

GOLF JACKET Sunderland GT Pro Water proof size xl dark blue/navy immaculate absolute bargain £30 01515319425/07773242918

BADMINTON RACQUET pro ace SP-40 graphite plus case, very good condition £10 01704 560518

TWIST+SHAPE exercise machine, as seen on TV, 3 months old, as new, cost £100, sell for £50 01704 201872

RIDING BOOTS rubber, size 5, good condition £10 01704 560518

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SPINNAKER POLE by Holt suitable for dinghy, aluminium tubing, 32mm diameter, 2.7m length complete with fittings, ready to use, excellent condition £27 01704 874084

MENS NIKE POLO GOLF TOPS x 2. Dry Fit Blue White Grey Collar White With Grey Collar size xl bargain £20 01515319425 / 07773242918

ROWING MACHINE Marcy RM413, magnetic, foldable machine, LCD computer display, 8 resistance levels, as new. £75 01704 575034

FIT BIT Charge 2, brand new still in box sealed, cost £119 selling for £90 or nearest offer 01695 312402

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GOLF CLUBS wilson ultra DCG irons 5-6-7-8-9-pw-sw nicce condition bargain £40 01515319425/07773242918

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GOLF CLUBS Golf clubs and bag woods and irons £20 01704564732

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DEATHS

BANKS ELLIS

16th March 2018
Peacefully at Birch Green Care Centre,
Aged 90 years
formerly of Lathom

The dearly loved Husband of Mildred and the late Hilda, loving Dad of Heather (deceased) and Step Dad to Gary and Craig. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Wednesday 4th April 2018 at 1:30pm followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for The Alzheimer's Society. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

HOWARD GLADYS

After a short illness peacefully in hospital on 15th March 2018
Aged 93 years

Much loved Wife of the late Jack. Dear Mum of Bill and Mother in law of Denise. Loving Grandma of Steven and Joy, Liam and Lee. Gladys will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service and Interment will take place at St John the Baptist Church, Burscough on Wednesday 4th April 2018 at 10.30am Family flowers only by request please but the family are receiving donations for The Osteoporosis Society. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

CHESTER ROY PROFESSOR

Passed away peacefully on 20th March 2018
Aged 81 years
of Ormskirk/Aughton

Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please by request, but donations if so desired for The British Heart Foundation. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

HODGSON LILLIAN

11th March 2018
Passed away at home
Aged 86 Years

Lillian will be sadly missed by family, friends and all who knew her. Funeral service to take place at Crossgate Church, Preston on Thursday 29th March 2018 at 1pm followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough, L40 7SP. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Crossgate Church.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone 01772 811165

KINNEY DAVID

Passed away on 21st March 2018
Aged 33 years

Much loved Son of Kath, Lawrence and Step Mum Sue. David will be very sadly missed by all his loving family and friends. The Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 4pm. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

POPE JOAN

23rd March 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 90 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Cliff, loving Mum of Christopher, Andrew and Alison, dear Mother in law of Lynne, Gail and Virgil, devoted Grandma of Simon & Jade, Matthew & Meagan, Josh and Kirsty and Great Grandma to Charlie and Bobby. Funeral service at Trinity Methodist Church, Hight Street Skelmersdale on Monday 9th April 2018 at 11:00am followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Trinity Church or Diabetes UK. It was Joan's wishes for bright colours to be worn No black please. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

LLOYD JACKIE

12th March 2018
Peacefully at home after a short illness
Aged 88 years

Re-united with her Husband George. Dearly loved Sister of Joan and Aunt of Jonathan, Lesley and Richard. Funeral service will take place on April 9th at 12.30pm at West Ponnie Memorial Park, Hall Lane, Entwistle BL7 0LB. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk, 128b Burscough St, Ormskirk Lancashire L39 2EY Tel: 01695 572997

BIRKETT PAULINE

14TH MARCH 2018
Peacefully at Hazelwell Care Home Heswall

Beloved Auntie of Howard and Christine, Debbie and Martin, Liz, Dave and Helen. Precious Great-Auntie to Sam, Laura & Michael and Great-Great-Auntie to Lola Elizabeth. Requiem mass at St Monica's church Fernhill Road, Bootle on Friday 6th April 2018 at 12.00 followed by Interment at Bootle Cemetery, much loved and will be sadly missed. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Parkinsons UK c/o Thompsons Funeral Service 274 Bedford Road, Bootle, Liverpool L20 9NE Tel: 0151 933 0202 where Pauline will be resting.

GOODGER THELMA ANNE

On 15th March 2018
Peacefully aged 78 years

Beloved Wife of Michael, devoted Mum of Martyn, dear Mother-In-Law of Maggie and a cherished Granny of Samuel. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Christ Church Newburgh on Thursday 5th April at 10:15am, followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, all enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

STILL JOHN

On 20th March 2018
Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving children
aged 77 years

Loving Dad of Carol, John and Partner Kimberlee, dear Grandad of Georgia will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St. Helens Crematorium on Thursday 5th April at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

WARNICK JANET

21st March 2018
Aged 88 years

Devoted Wife of the late Roy, wonderful and caring Mum to Sheila, Barbara and Tracy, Mother in law of Dave and Steve. A devoted Grandma and Great-Grandma, greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 4th April at 2.00pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations may be sent for P.D.S.A. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

ATFIELD WINIFRED MARY (MOLLY)

21st March 2018
Aged 94 years

Devoted Wife of the late Ron, much loved Mum of Wendy, David and the late Jane. Mother-in-law of Rose and Janice, loving Grandma and Great Grandma. Service at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Southport on Friday 6th April at 2:15pm followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Motor Neurone Disease Association. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

MARTLAND LIL

Passed away peacefully on 21st March 2018 at St Joseph's Hospice
Aged 89 Years

Beloved Wife of the late Stan. Loved Mum of Carolyn and Son in Law Rob Dear Nanna of Helen, Kathryn, Rachel and Family. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium Pippin Street Burscough on Wednesday 4th April at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only please but Donations if desired for Woodlands Hospice or St. Josephs Hospice c/o Graham J Clegg Funeral Service 7, Dover Road Maghull L31 5JB Tel 0151 520 3330 or at www.cleggfunerals.co.uk

HEYES PAUL SILAS

16th March 2018
Aged 57 years

Beloved Son of Bob and Edith. Beloved Brother of Robert, Ann, Pat, Shaun and Michelle. Dear Father to Adam and Aaron. Beloved Uncle to Robert, Kieron, Lewis, Callum, Nathan, Christian, Nicole and Brooke. Funeral Service at Green Acres Rainford on Thursday 5th April at 1.00pm. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Service Tel: 01695 731199

TURNER JOE

22nd March 2018
Aged 74 years

Beloved Husband to June. Dear Dad to Stephen, Ian and Kevin. Dear Father In law to Anita, Michelle and Rebecca. Grandad to Lauren, Joe and Mia. Great Grandad to Holly. Sadly missed by all his family. Family flowers only please donations to Queens Court Hospice Southport, so bless em all. Funeral service at West Lancs Crematorium on Wednesday 4th April at 3.15pm. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services Tel: 01695 731199

GREER JEAN

Passed away peacefully at Arranmore Park Rest Home, Burscough on 26th March 2018
Aged 88 years

Dear Wife of the late Fred. Much Loved Mum of Philip and Daughter in law Karen, and Nana of Chris and Laura (deceased). For funeral arrangements please contact Anabel Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888.

BEATTIE STELLA MAY

25th March 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 94 years of Ormskirk

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelemrsdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

BUCK MAUREEN

22nd March 2018
Passed away at home aged 64 years

Maureen will be sadly missed by friends and family and all who knew her. Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Thursday 29th March 2018 at 12:15pm. Family flowers only please, however donations if desired to Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone: 01772 811165

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CARR ELIZABETH JOAN

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, sympathy, cards, flowers and donations received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to ARK Carers, District nurses and to all the doctors at Skelmersdale Family Practice for their care. Thanks also to the Fthr. Mike Thompson for his kind ministrations and to H Hardman & Co Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements

HIGNETT BARRY

Margaret and family wish to express their sincere thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the kindness, sympathy and support shown to them at such a difficult time. Also for the messages, flowers, cards of condolence and generous donations to The Mavis Nye Foundation. Special thanks to Sharon Hilton (Macmillan) and the Palliative Care Team, the District Nurses and Carers who cared for Barry. Also to Rolf Jordon and all the staff at F.J. Gibb Funeral Directors and Ken Howles for the comforting service.

MURROW ALAN MICHAEL

Alan's family wish to express their special thanks to Woodlands Hospice and all the nurses who cared so well for Alan, sincere thanks to everyone for your kind messages, cards, flowers and donations, each and every single one special thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

CHARLOTTE & REBECCA MENARRY

Happy 21st Birthday

28th March 2018

have the most amazing day, with all our love & hugs Mum family & friends xx

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

DAULBY JANINE

27th March

It seems so long
since we three had
a birthday hug,
but close our
eyes tight,
we can blow out all
the candles together

Love and miss you always, but today will always be our day

Auntie Patti and
Cousin Kerry
(Canada)
XX

PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

A.R.

IN MEMORIAM

WINROW JOHN

31st March 2010

We dont ask for
miracles
But today just one
would do
To leave the door wide
open
And see you walk
through
We would wrap our
arms around you
And kiss your smiling
face
For you were very
special
Who no-one can
replace

Loving Wife Jean and all your family

IN MEMORIAM

BIRCHALL JOHN (JACK)

28th March 2015

You were loved so
much in life
and now that you are
gone
I look for you in life's
best things
and in them
you live on.

With love,
Sheila and Family
xxxx

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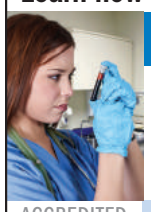

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You will value others and have a person centred approach supporting people with dignity and respect.

8 posts: Ref: LANCS09080
£16,491 - £17,772 a year, pro rata.

4 posts at 30 hours a week. 4 posts at 20 hours a week.
The support worker role involves all aspects of daily support, including supporting people to access activities and experiences in their local community, personal care, support with managing finance, administering medication and ensuring people's needs are met in terms of health and positive outcomes.

3 post: LANCS10148
£16,303 a year, pro rata.

23.3 hours a week. The Wake and Watch support worker role involves all aspects of support, including providing personal care, support with managing finance, administering medication and ensuring people's needs are met in terms of health and positive outcomes.
We are recruiting 3 part-time wake and watch staff to provide overnight support for an individual who has learning disability and complex behaviour needs. Usual working hours will be 10pm until 8am and the role will include implementing the individual's night time support plan and other agreed activities as part of the overall team.
Successful candidates will be expected to be available to undertake training and team events such as probation and team meetings during daytime working hours.

For further information or an informal discussion please contact Lynda Tomlinson or Hannah Turner on 01695 587433.

The posts you are applying for are covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013). If successful you will be required to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a 'disclosure'.
Lancashire County Council has a Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders this is available to all applicants upon request.
Closing date: 13 April 2018.

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

Lancashire County Council

Apply online at: **www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies**

Queenscourt

Queenscourt Hospice, a local charity providing support for people of Southport, Formby and West Lancashire. Our philosophy of care is 'life is for living' and that quality of life is paramount for those whose life may be shorter than otherwise expected.

We are currently advertising for two roles within our Clinical Team

Bank Healthcare Assistants – Queenscourt at Home Team

As and when required; £16,931 pro-rata
You will deliver a range of patient care duties predominately in the community. You will be expected to work unsupervised, with confidence as a lone worker in the patients' home.
You must be able to demonstrate empathy and communicate effectively about death and dying with patients, families and health professionals. The applicants must have experience of working within the community and possess NVQ Level 3 in Care or equivalent.

Healthcare Assistant – Inpatient Unit

Permanent; 21hpw; £16,931 - £20,049 pro-rata
The hours include shift patterns including internal rotation to nights. NVQ Level 3 in Care or equivalent required, experience in palliative care preferred. Applicants should be able to prove a genuine interest in palliative care and possess excellent communication skills.

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: Sunday 15th April 2018

For further information or to arrange an informal visit, please contact Sister Aimee Oni on 01704 517 923 regarding the Inpatient role and Sister Julie Davidson on 01704 517929 regarding the Bank roles in the Community.
Applications forms and job descriptions are available from **www.queenscourt.org.uk/jobs**

New directions
Supporting the most vulnerable

Following a recent expansion of our excellent Home Service we are now recruiting to a number of roles within the South Sefton area of Liverpool. By joining the New Directions team we can offer you the following benefits:

- Immediate start, subject to satisfactory employment checks, including an enhanced DBS check
- Competitive rate of pay
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- Paid travel time
- Pension
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- Career development
- Relief work

We currently have vacancies for:

HOME CARE WORKERS

Based in the Waterloo, Litherland, Netherton and Bootle areas providing support and assistance to people of all ages in their home. The role includes personal care, such as: washing, dressing and bathing. No qualifications are necessary. The ability to work evenings and weekends would be advantageous. Available hours guaranteed.

REABLEMENT WORKERS

Would you like to work out in the community, supporting and motivating individuals to develop or regain their life skills and confidence following a stay in hospital, illness, crisis, fall at home or change in circumstances in relation to themselves or their carers? Day, evening and weekend shifts so must be flexible. Driver with access to their own vehicle is essential. Up to 25 hour contract guaranteed.

CARE CO-ORDINATOR

Based in our Home Service, this is a full time role (36 hours p/w) working at our newly refurbished office in Netherton. Reporting directly to the Deputy Home Services Manager you would play a support role in the planning and management of care staff rotas and act as a point of contact for staff, service users, families and other professionals, reporting any changes in service user circumstances or concerns about their welfare. This is a busy and at times demanding job, but equally rewarding. An understanding of the planning and provision of care to adults and an ability to communicate effectively with colleagues and/or other professionals is essential.

For more information on any of the above roles, please contact Lorna Irving, Registered Manager on 0151 347 7834

An Enhanced DBS disclosure is required for all of the above positions

MAINTENANCE OPERATIVE (3 part time posts)

We are expanding our maintenance team and require an additional three part-time Maintenance Operatives to work 24 hours per week. You would be required to carry out interior and external building maintenance to a high standard and to meet statutory requirements. Experience of carrying out simple repair and maintenance work is essential. Health and Safety training will be provided.

A Standard DBS disclosure is required for this position

Contact Joy Brooks, Service Development Manager on 07973 457838 for further information.

To apply for any of our vacancies, visit our Job Opportunities page at www.ndirections.org. Alternatively, you can contact the HR team on 0151 705 0300 for an application pack to be sent out in the post.

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- Ennerdale

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Office Assistant - Administration Team

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JC&A Solicitors are a well-established Personal Injury Firm who are seeking an enthusiastic candidate to join our Administration Team on a fixed term contract.

The role includes data input, file closing, post, general office duties and other tasks as required. No previous experience is necessary as full training and support will be given, however higher education qualifications would be preferable, but not essential.

Please submit your c.v for the attention of Sue McDermott to **info@jcasolicitors.co.uk**

If you do not hear from us within 10 days, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

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Billing Clerk - Credit Control Department

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JC&A Solicitors are a well-established Personal Injury Firm who are seeking enthusiastic candidates to join our Credit Control Department on a fixed term contract.

No previous experience is necessary as full training and support will be given, however a degree would be beneficial but not essential.

You will be trained to prepare Bills of Costs for legal services.

The role will also involve assisting the credit control team with administrative duties which will include contact with clients.

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JOB VACANCIES

STORE SALES

Working as part of our sales team, you will be providing customers with advice and information within our retail stores.

The successful candidate will have the chance to grow with this position and will liaise closely with the marketing department and sales team.

Duties to be performed will include:
- Providing product advice and recommendations to customers
- Booking jobs onto a manufacturing system
- Liaising with our head office logistics team
- Working closely with the marketing team, website and social media channels
- Processing orders over the telephone and in store Requirements:
- Sales/Customer Service experience preferred but not essential as training given
- Confident and friendly with excellent communication skills
- Flexible with regards to working hours & weekend work required
- Smart appearance
- Good communication skills
- Basic pay Plus Bonus
- Any social media experience would be an advantage

INTERNET SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE

Full and Part time staff required

Working as part of sales team, you will be providing customers with product information over the telephone and live chat on our web site.

The successful candidate will have the chance to grow with this position and manage a team.

Duties to perform include;

Providing product advice and recommendations • Working with our marketing team, website and social media channels • Processing orders over the telephone & via the website

Requirements

Sales/Customer service experience preferred but not essential. Confident and friendly with good communication skills. Flexible working hours, this office is open 7 days per week and we are looking for people to work within the following hours

- Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 10.00 pm
- Saturday 11.00 am - 8.00 pm
- Sunday 12.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Working between our Aintree office & Head office

ECOMMERCE CO-ORDINATOR

Job Responsibilities

We are looking for a candidate to expand our digital channel. As our eCommerce coordinator you will be involved and work across many areas of the business. We are looking for a dynamic and proactive individual to be instrumental in delivering E-Commerce functions to our organisation. This is a role for a talented and ambitious individual who has potential to become a key part of our organisation.

Qualities & Requirements:
- Digital Marketing
- Creating Online Content and Content Management
- Magento Experience Advantageous
- SEO Experience Advantageous
- Excellent communication skills
- Bright, self-starter with a great can-do attitude and passionate about digital.
- Photoshop and Design Skills Advantageous
- Good presentation skills with confidence presenting findings, analysis and information
- Strong analytical mind-set with good attention to detail
- Comfortable with manipulating and analysing large data sets
- Experience of Google Analytics and Adwords Desirable
- On Site Conversion Optimisation Experience
- Social Media Advertising

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SEMI EXPERIENCED UPHOLSTERER

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EXPERIENCED UPHOLSTERER

To cover Headboards Sofas, sofa beds divan bases

Basic pay Plus Bonus This role is based at our factory Kirkby Industrial Estate

CUSTOMER SERVICE

We require an experienced customer service operative who has previous experience with handling inbound customer service requests from retail customers.

Requirements for this role are:
- Good telephone manner
- Good communication skills
- A high level of organisation
- Computer Literate with experience of using ticket/email systems

Experience with carriers is an advantage

This role is based at our head office Knowsley

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council Off-Street Parking Places
Notice Of Variation Of Pay And Display Parking Charges

Notice is hereby given that West Lancashire Borough Council in exercise of its powers under Section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, proposes to alter the scale of charges levied for the use of short-stay and long-stay pay and display car parks in Ormskirk Town Centre.

1. Short Stay Car Parks
Parking on the car parks named below is to be restricted to a maximum of four hours at any one time. The charges levied for the use of the following short-stay car parks will be revised as set out below.

Car Park	Duration	Current Charge	New Charge
Bus Station Car Park, Moor Street, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	70p	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
Market Way Car Park, Off Moorgate, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	70p	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
Lunesdale Car Park, Moorgate, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	70p	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
Park Pool Car Park, Park Road, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	70p	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
Park Road Car Park, Park Road, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	Free	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
Wheatsheaf Car Park, Leyland Way, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	70p	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	Not applicable	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	Not applicable	£2.00

2. Long Stay Car Parks
The charges levied for the use of the following long-stay car parks will be revised as set out below.

Car Park	Duration	Current Charge	New Charge
Hutton Way Car Park, Hutton Way, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	70p	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
	Up to 9 hours	£3.00	£3.00
Stiles Car Park, Derby Street West, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	70p	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
	Up to 9 hours	£3.00	£3.00
Hants Lane Car Park, Hants Lane, Ormskirk	Up to 1 hour	40p	No longer applicable
	Up to 2 hours	60p	No longer applicable
	Up to 3 hours	£1.00	£1.00
	Up to 4 hours	£1.20	No longer applicable
	Up to 9 hours	£1.70	£2.00

3. Long Stay Car Park – Council Offices Car Park Only
The charges levied for the use of the Council Offices Car Park will remain as current.

Car Park	Duration	Current Charge	New Charge
Council Offices Car Park, Derby Street, Ormskirk Monday to Friday	Up to 30 mins	Free	Free
	Up to 1 hour	70p	70p
	Up to 2 hours	£1.10	£1.10
	Up to 3 hours	£1.60	£1.60
	Up to 4 hours	£2.00	£2.00
	Up to 9 hours	£3.00	£3.00
Council Offices Car Park, Derby Street, Ormskirk Saturdays Only	Up to 4 hours	Free	Free
	Up to 9 hours	£3.00	£3.00

All the above variations in charges will come into force on 23rd April 2018

Terry Broderick
Borough Solicitor
West Lancashire Borough Council
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF
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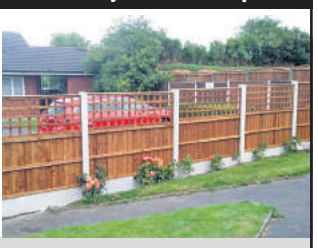

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It turns out that the battleground for motoring supremacy is Milton Keynes

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
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A LONG time ago the blistering heat of the California desert or a fortnight spent in the bitter cold of the Arctic circle were what counted when it came to developing your new car. But it turns out that the latest battleground for motoring supremacy is… Milton Keynes.

Ford dispatched a fleet of Mondeos fitted with some very clever experimental equipment there and – in the best traditions of *Tomorrow's World* – a man with a beard and a tweed jacket to attempt to explain their cunning new plan. Essentially, they've sent a team of drivers out into this glorious 1960s vision of a New Town and asked them simply to park somewhere.

Which, if you've ever been to Milton Keynes on a busy Monday morning, can be easier said than done.

If all goes to plan, the Fiesta or Focus you buy in a few years' time will be able to scan the car park quicker than you can, letting you know exactly where that elusive empty space is before the irritating birk in the BMW 1-Series swoops in and steals it at the last second.

It's important stuff; apparently most of us motoring types lose a day a year looking for parking spaces.

Naturally, Volkswagen wasn't going to let Ford take all the credit for solving our parking problems forever, and just a few days later put out a press release pointing out that it's been honing its Park Assist system for more than 20 years across three generations of tech, and is now working on an app that'll talk to your Golf and let you know where all the empty – and better still, cheap – spaces are.

The fact that the combined brainpower of at least two motoring giants is finally being applied to making parking less irritating is wonderful, but what I'm really looking forward to is seeing the Fiestas and Polos of a decade's time solving the *really* annoying problems of car parks.

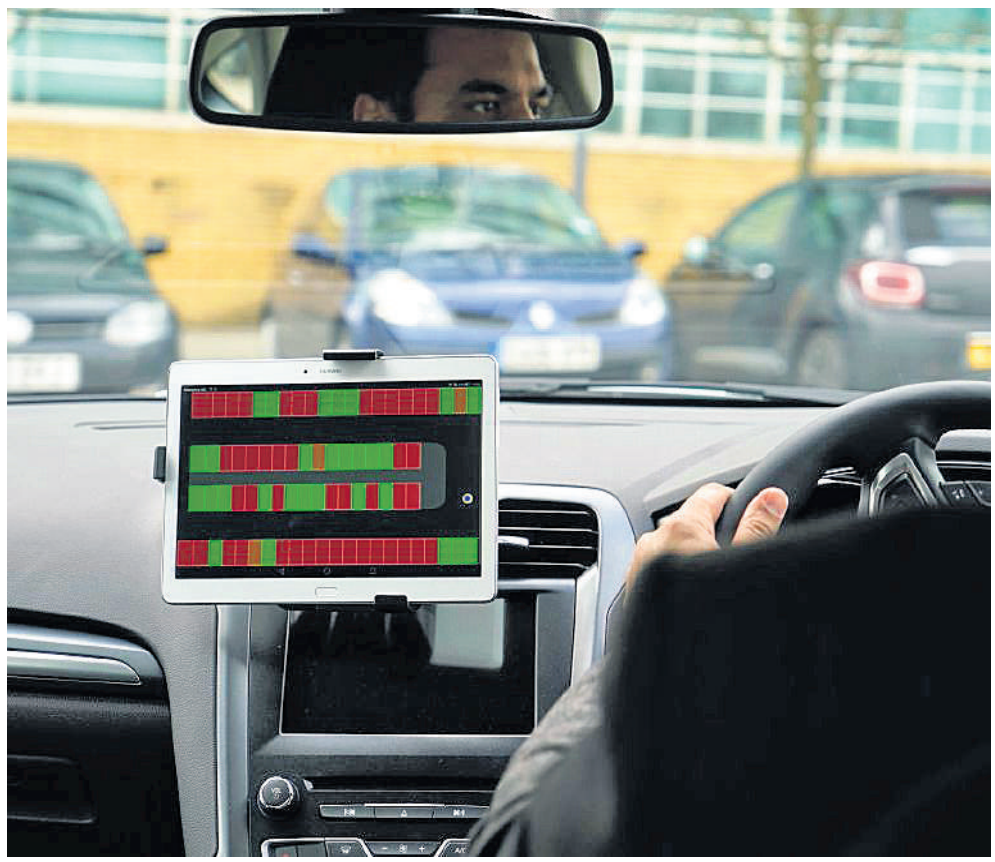
Wouldn't it be great, for instance, if they could fire lasers at all those off-roaders parked diagonally across three spaces? Or have anyone who clips your bodywork with a carelessly-opened door automatically arrested on the spot and sentenced to four years' hard labour for automotive neglect?

I'd go out and buy a new Golf tomorrow if it knew what to do when the ticket reader at a multi-storey stops working, leaving you trapped with six impatient shoppers stuck behind you.

What I'd suggest to Ford is that it carries on its important research in the interests of helping the British public by moving its crack team of Mondeo-driving scientists a bit further north than Milton Keynes.

If they – or Volkswagen's researchers, for that matter – can solve the stresses of parking in Southport town centre or the Skelmersdale Concourse for good, then their millions will have been worthwhile.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly



Ford has developed technology that can sense empty parking spaces

Group wins national award

A DEALERSHIP have been given the Best Retail Sales Team of the Year Award at national awards ceremony.

The family-run Chapelhouse Motor Group have branches across the North West.

Terry Clarke, Richard Lauriston and Toni-Ann Gould were recognised at the DS National Awards for their hard work and commitment, with customer satisfaction scores of 100%.

Richard Lauriston said: "It's great to have recognition for a job well done. Not only is it a confidence booster, it also shows to customers that you're doing things right. That's exactly the situation with the Best Retail Sales Team of the Year Award.

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From left, Citroen sales director Eurig Druce, Richard Lauriston and TV comedian Sara Pascoe, who compered the event

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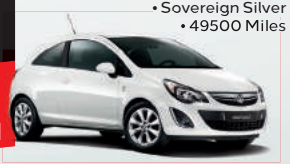

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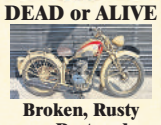
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Burscough prepare for crucial Easter fixtures

SUPPORTERS for both sets of local sides will have different feelings going into the Easter fixtures.

Skem fans can relax and enjoy the football, while Burscough supporters will be desperately hoping their side can pick up some much needed points.

Burscough are still embroiled in a fight for survival. They now embark on a run of four consecutive away games.

Saturday sees them head down the M6 to Congleton Town while on Easter Monday they will join the rush and head to Blackpool where they take on Squires Gate.

Neither of the Linnets opponents looks exactly invincible so they have high hopes of gathering some points. Congleton are presently in 14th position in the table, five points ahead of Burscough.

Skelmersdale have probably rid themselves of relegation worries so they can enjoy their trip into the 'Rhubarb Triangle' at Ossett Albion on Easter Saturday.

Albion sit one point and one place behind Skem in the Evo-Stik Division One North table, but both have been in good form recently and have both moved to safety.

Three weeks ago this represented a crucial fixture for both teams but they can now both take matters easier.

Easter Monday sees another interesting one for Dave Powell's outfit when they are at home to promotion chasing Bamber Bridge (3pm kick off).

The visitors will be looking for three points so it should be a good game, plus they are likely to bring a good few spectators with them, so the atmosphere should be good too.

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Phil Mooney strikes the Skem equaliser. Pictures by John Driscoll

Mooney strike earns Skem deserved point

Colwyn Bay 1
Skelmersdale United 1

SKELMERSDALE moved 11 points from the bottom of the league table after a hard-earned point away from home, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

When the hosts took the lead it was a bit of a surprise. Home number nine Danny Bartle set off after a long ball with two Skem players at his shoulders before firing an excellent low drive under Cheetham and into the net.

On 50 minutes George Withe won a corner on the left and Bakkor was very quick over to the ball to take the kick.

Bakkor drove the ball to the centre of the penalty and it fell to Phil Mooney, who was able to bring the ball down to his feet then dispatch it low into the Colwyn net to equalise.

Colwyn were going to have to go onto the attack if they were going to get the three points their play-off requirements demanded, while Skem were now bristling with confidence, especially when they went forward.

Dave Powell introduced the speedy Tunde Owolabi from the bench and his speed had Colwyn worried for the rest of the game. The hosts made a couple of changes in an attempt to generate some threat up front.

The best Colwyn could do though was a couple of free-kicks and a series of pretty harmless looking shots from distance. Cheetham didn't actually have a save to make.

The last 10 minutes were the best of the game. First Bakkor got behind the home defence but from a very acute angle his shot beat the far post, then on 84 minutes Owolabi ran onto a lovely cross field ball from Liam Davies and saw his shot thump against angle of post and crossbar.

In the 87th minute keeper Cooper beat away a powerful shot from Bakkor, then a minute from time Skem had an appeal for a penalty turned down.

There was one last scare for Skem in added time when striker and former Skem player Jamie Rainford was allowed too much space on the edge of the penalty area, his shot bobbled against the foot of Cheetham's post and was cleared. On the balance of play that would have been a huge injustice, but it still brought big sighs of relief from the Skem supporters.

Such is the improvement in Skem over the last three weeks that they could easily finish mid-table.

Scott Bakkor's shot goes just wide in injury time

Skelmersdale United	35	7	11	17	44	71	-27	32
Ossett Albion	31	8	7	16	37	60	-23	31
Brighouse Town	34	8	4	22	44	81	-37	28
Goole AFC	35	5	6	24	37	92	-55	21

Skem move 11 points away from bottom side Goole

Whyte double isn't enough as Linnets lose to fellow strugglers

Burscough 2
AFC Liverpool 3

BURSCOUGH lost a five goal thriller at the bottom of the table against fellow strugglers AFC Liverpool.

Centre-forward Whyte charged through the visitor's backline before lobbing the ball over Cookson to make it 1-0 to Burscough in the opening ten minutes.

The visitors grabbed their first equaliser at the start of a frantic ten minutes before the interval, Chris Brady popping up on the edge of a cross to clinically finish to a quality cross field ball.

The goal clearly gave AFC a lift, but it was Burscough who were to score next, in the 43rd minute, via Whyte again, this time smashing home a header from a corner.

All Burscough had to do was hang on for a few minutes but they couldn't. A defensive slip up gave away skipper James Howell an opportunity that he gratefully accepted.

In the 51st minute the Linnets defence failed to clear an Andy Lewis corner and the ball fell to the feet of defender Callum Edgar who had gone forward for the flag kick, he wasted no time in firing the ball into the net to make the score 2-3.

Burscough piled on the pressure in the latter stages but by then AFC were entrenched at the back and simply allowing Burscough nothing in the way of viable chances and salvaging a point.

The result puts Burscough under some pressure in their remaining ten league games.

17.	Irlam	29	35
18.	Burscough	34	35
19.	Abbey Hey	32	34
20.	Maine Rd	34	31
21.	AFC Liverpool	32	29
22.	AFC Darwen	30	15
23.	Barnton	36	12

Linnets stay in 18th place

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SKELMERSDALE
Champion

28 March 2018 Vol 25 • Issue 13 www.champnews.com

This week's Champion is inside ...

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The Spring offer is packed full of new and revitalised courses delivered by inspirational tutors who are experts in their field. Whether it's a course for relaxation or you want to brush up on work skills, there is something for everyone, so have a go at something new this Spring.

The college are also set to host some fabulous events over the coming months, including a dance show with Vincent & Flavia, of Strictly Come Dancing fame, as well as an evening with legendary boxing champion, Nigel Benn.

Denise Williamson, College Principal said "We are delighted to be able to offer so many fabulous opportunities to local people. The college is here for the benefit of the community and our ambition is to promote lifelong learning for all."

Please see inside for full list of courses, or call course enquiries on 01695 52300 / enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk

Strictly's Vincent and Flavia come to West Lancashire College

West Lancashire College are thrilled to announce that they are set to host a fabulous show that will include Strictly Come Dancing's Vincent and Flavia this June. This is part of the College's commitment to promoting the creative arts across the district.

Vincent and Flavia have become one of the Country's most successful Ballroom, Latin American and Argentine Tango performers and choreographers. After competing successfully together for many years, they gained a strong following after joining BBC's Strictly Come Dancing.

Following their success on the BBC show, the couple have wowed their audiences with three shows of their own which have received Olivier Award nominations for family entertainment, and now the West Lancashire community have a chance to be wowed too!

Photo taken by Manuel Harlan

The college are absolutely delighted to be hosting Vincent and Flavia alongside local dancers in their very own theatre at West Lancashire College. The audience are in for an absolute treat and will be delighted by the performance from this passionate pair.

The star-sequinned couple will perform the dances they have become famous for in Hope Theatre on Monday 25 June 2018. If you are lucky enough to gain a place on the new 'Come Strictly Dancing' course starting this April, you will receive a complimentary ticket to the show. Please see inside for more details.

Tickets cost just £20 per person, plus booking fee, and can be booked via eventbrite.co.uk

For further details, please contact the college Box Office 01695 52300, between the hours of 9.15am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

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Course and Content	Day	Time	Duration	Fee	Location	Start Date
ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING						
Sage Accounts for Beginners ☎ This course is a basic introduction to SAGE Accounting software, ideal for those running a small business.	Wed	7pm-9pm	6 wks	£30*	SC	11/04/2018
ART, PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITAL						
Painting & Drawing for Beginners ☎ Distinguish the use of tone, colour, composition and perspective, evaluate drawing materials and achieve personal expression in your work.	Sun	10am-1pm/1.30pm-4pm	6 wks	£20*	SC	15/04/2018
Introduction to Photoshop ☎ Learn how to use Photoshop from an absolute beginners level to those with some experience of Photoshop.	Tue	7pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	10/04/2018
Introduction to Premier Pro ☎ Learn how to use Adobe's Premier Pro Software to edit/enhance film and moving image.	Wed	7pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	11/04/2018
Introduction to InDesign ☎ Learn how to use Adobe's InDesign Software to create photo albums and wedding books and many other things.	Mon	7pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	09/04/2018
Art Appreciation ☎ Learn how to participate in discussions about famous artists and artwork throughout history. This is a perfect opportunity for those who are interested in art work and who enjoy discussing themes around art.	Thur	6pm-9pm	6 wks	FREE	SC	12/04/2018
Interior Design an Introduction ☎ Includes; Colour theory, mixing, terminology, harmonies and contrasts, room layout and design, scale, balance, symmetry. Pattern, texture and accessorising. Mood boards - visual.	Mon	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	09/04/2018
Digital Photography ☎ All you need to know about your camera and its settings. Get out of "Auto" mode with course and find out about some of the extra features and controls on your camera.	Mon/Tue Sat	6pm-9pm 10am-1pm	10 wks	£30*	SC	09/04/2018
Introduction to Drawing ☎ Covers a number of techniques and develop your drawing skills in a variety of mediums.	Wed	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£20	SC	11/04/2018
Introduction to Art Practice and Techniques ☎ Covers basic and advanced techniques that are used in the art world.	Tue	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	10/04/2108
Digital Photography for students with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities ☎ Introduces basic photography. Students must have a camera on a phone or DSLR and ability to operate.	Fri	10am-12noon	10 wks	£20*	SC	20/04/2018
Photo-therapy ☎ This is a recreational photography course designed to help students promote well-being and relaxation through the art of photography.	Fri	12.30pm-2.30pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	20/04/2018
BEAUTY, SPA & MASSAGE						
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Advanced Massage (non accredited) ☎ Recap on traditional massage movements, have an introduction to advanced massage movements and techniques plus demonstrations of practical advanced massage techniques.	Mon	9.30am-12noon	7 wks	£20*	SC	09/04/2018
BOXING						
Female Boxing ☎ Introductory course designed specifically for females to develop fitness and boxing technique. It will include cardio alongside pad and bag work. All abilities welcome.	Wed	6.30pm-7.30pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	18/04/2018
Boxing ☎ This is a mixed boxing class suitable for all ranges of ability. The session will focus on technique and fitness.		7.30pm-8.30pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	18/04/2018
BUSINESS						
Business Improvement Techniques Level 2 Designed to help you improve services to customers, eliminate waste and enhance the quality of your products or services.	CFD	CFD	CFD	CFD	CFD	CFD
CATERING & HOSPITALITY						
Beginners Cake Decorating ☎ Learn how a professional cake decorator achieves a smooth finish to a cake, decorate a cake for a celebration, add decorative detail and finishes.	Mon	6pm-8.30pm	10 wks	£30*	SC	09/04/2018
Improvers Cake Decorating ☎ Suitable for students with some previous experience of cake decorating and to those who have previously studied.	Thur	6pm-8.30pm	10 wks	£30*	SC	12/04/2018
COUNSELLING						
Introduction to Counselling ☎ Suitable for complete beginners who would like to know more about what counselling and counselling training entails.	Thur	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£50	SC	12/04/2018
DANCE, DRAMA & PERFORMANCE						
Come Strictly Dancing ☎ Learn the Waltz, Quick Step, Cha-cha and Jive on our Come Strictly Dancing short course. All those who join and complete this course will receive a complimentary ticket to attend the Vincent & Flavia Show!	Wed	6.30pm-8pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	11/04/2018
Introduction to Dance ☎ Learn to Dance a variety of styles over the course. Designed for beginners or those who want to get back into dance. Styles will include Jazz, commercial, burlesque, ballet, tap and contemporary.	Thur	6.30pm-8.30pm	6 wks	£20*	SC	12/04/2018
Acting ☎ Suitable for complete beginners along with those who have a keen interest in drama and theatre. You will learn through practical activities a variety of acting and performance techniques.	Thur	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£25*	SC	12/04/2018
Stand-Up for a Laugh! ☎ A one day workshop on Stand-up Comedy, for absolute beginners. Tutor, Mike Levantine, is a theatre director and writer, with an interest in all aspect of comedy, many years ago he worked with the brilliant Peter Kay, and to date, has a specific interest in the comedian as a storyteller.	Sat	1pm-5pm	1 day	£25*	SC	28/04/2018
Screenwriting ☎ An introductory screenwriting course for beginners and those with some writing experience. Students will learn the basics of writing for the screen and by the end of the course will have written their own 10-20 minute short film.	Wed	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£25*	SC	11/04/2018
Drama for students with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities ☎ Designed for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. It will give the students the chance to learn drama and stage skills. Students will also get to take part in a creative showcase.	Wed & Fri	10am-12 noon & 1.15pm-4pm	10 wks	£30*	SC	11/04/2018
EQUINE						
Equine Therapy ☎ Equine therapy has great benefits for a variety of issues from low self-esteem to lack of enthusiasm in education. Course includes: Horse inter action, Stable Management, Personal goal setting, Improved communication and social skills, Behaviour observation in a variety of situations; Achievement awards and certificates.	Thur	10am-12 noon	1 wk	£25*	BLF	05/04/2018 or 31/05/2018
DRESSMAKING/TEXTILES						
Pattern Cutting & Jacket Making Workshop ☎ Using the developed concept, you will design a garment from a starting theme taking into account current trends. Includes pattern cutting and sewing workshop.	Sat	10am-3pm	6 wks	£20*	SC	05/05/2018

Course and Content	Day	Time	Duration	Fee	Location	Start Date
DRESSMAKING/TEXTILES						
Introduction to Dressmaking ☎ Students will be taken step by step from the initial design to constructing a completed garment. This is a very practical course.	Tue	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£75* *(Includes an intro kit)*	SC	10/04/2018
Intermediate Garment Design and Making ☎ Ideal for those with dress/garment making experience. Students will learn more advanced techniques that support their design and making skills.	Wed	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£50*	SC	11/04/2018
Patchwork Quilting ☎ On this beginners course you will learn the basics of Patchwork and Quilting. Learn to measure, cut and make basic patchwork patterns.	Fri	10am-3.30pm	10 wks	£30*	SC	13/04/2018
Mixed Media Embroidery ☎ This course is suitable for people who have basic to intermediate sewing skills and are interested in creative stitching. Taught by Karen Mac who has worked in a multitude of Couture Fashion Houses and as costume maker on Game of Thrones, you will develop skills to explore ways of using mixed media for textiles based outcomes.	Wed	10am-3.30pm	10 wks	£30*	SC	11/04/2018
ENGLISH						
English for Adults Our English qualifications allow learners to build confidence & progress their literacy skills.	Tue/Wed	6.30pm-8.30pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
ESOL						
English for Speakers of Other Languages Beginners (ESOL) ☎ Offered to anyone whose first language is not English. Teaching is in small groups to enable as much oral work to take place as possible.	Tue or Wed	9.30am-12noon or 6pm-8.30pm	30 wks	£25*	SC	Ongoing
FIRST AID						
Emergency First Aid at Work Award Level 3 ☎ FC Nationally recognised qualification designed for those who have a specific responsibility at work.	Wed	9am-4pm	1 day	£130	SC	18/04/2018 or 23/05/2018
Emergency Paediatric First Aid Award Level 3 ☎ FC Ideal for those who have gained a level 2 or 3 childcare qualification and are employed in an early years setting and wish to be included in the staff to child ratios to comply with the EYFS requirements.	Thur	9am-4pm	1 day	£90	SC	03/05/2018
HEALTH & SAFETY						
Health & Safety in the Workplace Award Level 2 ☎ FC This qualification is ideal for all to raise their awareness of health and safety in the workplace.	Thur	9am-4pm	1 day	£80	SC	12/04/2018
Principles of COSHH Award Level 2 ☎ FC Ideal for those who specifically wish to work in an environment with hazardous substances, such as: healthcare, manufacturing, cleaning, transport, utilities and office environments.	Fri	9am-12 noon	½ day	£60	SC	27/04/2018
Fire Safety Award Level 2 ☎ FC Covers fire safety in the workplace, for roles such as designated fire wardens/marshals.	Wed	9am-12 noon	½ day	£60	SC	09/05/2018
Safe Moving and Handling Award Level 2 ☎ FC Nationally recognised qualification designed for those who work, or intend to work, in a role that involves manual handling.	Thur	9am-12 noon	½ day	£40	SC	17/05/2018
IT & COMPUTING						
IT for Beginners ☎ Basic introductory computer course is aimed at adults who would like to improve their skills. We want to encourage those candidates who are not confident with computers to get online.	Tue	5.30pm-8.30pm	6 wks	£20*	SC	24/04/2018
JOB BOOST PROGRAMME						
Job Boost Programme Are you interested in starting an Apprenticeship but require help and support to get started? Why not join our new Job Boost Programme specifically designed to support and guide you onto your next step.	Wed-Fri	9am-4pm	4 wks	FREE	SC	16/04/2018
MATHS						
Maths for Adults Our Maths qualifications allow learners to build confidence & progress their numeracy skills.	Tue Mon Wed	6pm-8pm 10am-12noon/1pm-3pm 1pm-3pm or 6pm-8pm	Flexible Flexible	FREE FREE	SC SC	Ongoing Ongoing
MAKE UP ARTISTE						
Special Effects Make-up Masterclass ☎ FC Price includes professional brush set, colour wheel and latex. Takes you through all the fun and gore of Special Effects Makeup. Learn how to create bruising, cuts and scars ideal for Halloween looks, or for those looking to enhance make-up artistry skills.	Wed	10am-4pm	1 day	£150	SMU	16/05/2018
Prosthetic Make-up Masterclass ☎ FC Price includes SFX kit; prosthetic pieces, palettes, glue and colours. Application of Prosthetic Makeup. The course is designed for those wanting to learn the process of choosing and applying prosthetic makeup pieces to create a character makeup.	Wed	10am-4pm	1 day	£250	SMU	23/05/2018
High Fashion (latest trends) Make-up Masterclass ☎ FC Price includes professional brush set. For make-up artists wanting to learn new trends straight from the catwalks of New York and London fashion weeks. Discover new techniques and learn how you can adapt these to suit your clients.	Wed	10am-4pm	1 day	£150	SMU	30/05/2018
Bridal Make-up Masterclass ☎ FC Price includes professional brush set. Gain an insight into the bridal industry. Course designed for make-up artists wanting to grow their bridal business and learn new trends in bridal make-up application.	Wed	10am-4pm	1 day	£150	SMU	06/06/2018
Media Make-up Level 2 (City & Guilds) ☎ The course covers day, evening, special occasion, fashion, photographic and bridal looks plus all the techniques required to achieve them. Requires purchase of make-up kit and uniform.	Wed	6pm - 9pm	10 wks	£97	SC	11/04/2018
MANAGEMENT						
ILM Leadership & Management Award/Certificate/Diploma These qualifications help improve leadership and management skills, transforming individual and organisational performance.	CFD	CFD	CFD	CFD	CFD	CFD
MUSIC						
Guitar Beginners ☎ Own Guitar required. Learn to play guitar, and become the musician you've always wanted to be in a course designed for students with no previous guitar experience.	Mon	11am-12noon or 6pm-7pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	09/04/2018
Guitar Workshop ☎ Own Guitar required. Mixed ability workshop designed for guitar players of all abilities who want to improve and play for pleasure.	Mon	2pm-4pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	09/04/2018
Guitar Lessons (students aged 13-16) ☎ FC Own Guitar required. Group taught session aimed at school children who are starting out in guitar. Free book included.	Mon	4pm-5pm	10 wks	£50	SC	09/04/2018
Ukulele for Beginners ☎ Own Ukuele required. Aimed at people who have never played the Ukulele before.	Tue	7pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	10/04/2018
Guitar Intermediate ☎ Own Guitar required. Aimed at people with experience of playing guitar whom wish to improve to a more advanced level	Mon	7pm-8pm	10 wks	£50	SC	09/04/2018
PRINCE'S TRUST						
Prince's Trust Programme for 16-25 year olds - Entry Level 3 to Level 2. The Prince's Trust Teams includes community projects, residential, work experience, CV and job searching skills.	Full-time	Full-time	12 wks	FREE	SC	09/04/2018
SPORTS						
Treatment and Prevention of Sports Injuries Introduction ☎ Develop your basic understanding of anatomy, physiology and nutrition and the management and treatment of sports injuries, plus practical skills in sports massage.	Wed	6pm-9pm	6 wks	£20*	SC	25/04/2018

**Non-refundable enrolment and course material fee, those on benefit or low wage may be eligible for fee remission*

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO ENROLMENT?

- If you are fee-paying student, you must bring enough money or method of payment to meet your first instalment. We accept cash, cheques, credit and debit card payments.
- If you're signing up for a direct debit, make sure you've got your bank details with you.
- You will need to have knowledge of your current qualifications as well as your National Insurance number.
- Identification, please bring any one of the following; Passport, Photo Driving Licence, Armed Forces Service ID, National Insurance Card, Certificate of Entitlement to Funding, Bank Credit/ Debit Card, or a current WLC college student ID Card.
- Proof of Benefits if claiming free tuition for a fee based course.
- For our Fees and Funding Fact sheet please go to www.westlancs.ac.uk

KEY

☎ Telephone enrolment available for fee payers only

CFD Call for Details

FC These courses are full cost, no fee remission available

CENTRE ADDRESSES

SC West Lancashire College, College Way, Skelmersdale WN8 6LH

BLF Burrows Lane Farm, Burrows Lane, Eccleston, St Helens L34 6JQ

SMU Spectrum Make-up 1st Floor, Rainford Village Hall, Church Road, Rainford, St Helens WA11 8HB

Disclaimer:
Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right however, to make alterations or amendments to the details contained in this publication. Courses will operate subject to sufficient numbers.

An evening with Nigel Benn

West Lancashire College are pleased to announce a spectacular evening with Nigel Benn, a true British sporting legend, as part of their commitment to increasing participation in sporting activities across the district.

Legendary British boxer Nigel Benn will appear at the college's Hope Theatre venue on Friday 27 April, where the "Dark Destroyer" will have plenty of stories to tell as he takes to the stage.

The 54-year-old was a two-division world champion during his career and successfully defended the WBC Super-Middleweight title a record nine times.

Benn's famous bouts against Chris Eubank were some of the most-watched sporting events of the 1990s. When Benn left the sport, he retired with a formidable record of 42 wins (including 35 knock-outs) and five defeats. Boxing fans will have a rare chance to get up close and personal with the ring legend plus the opportunity for a meet and greet.

Tickets cost £40 per person, plus booking fee, and include canapes and drinks. Tables of 10 are £360. Tickets can be booked via eventbrite.co.uk For further details, please contact the college Box Office 01695 52300, between the hours of 9.15am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

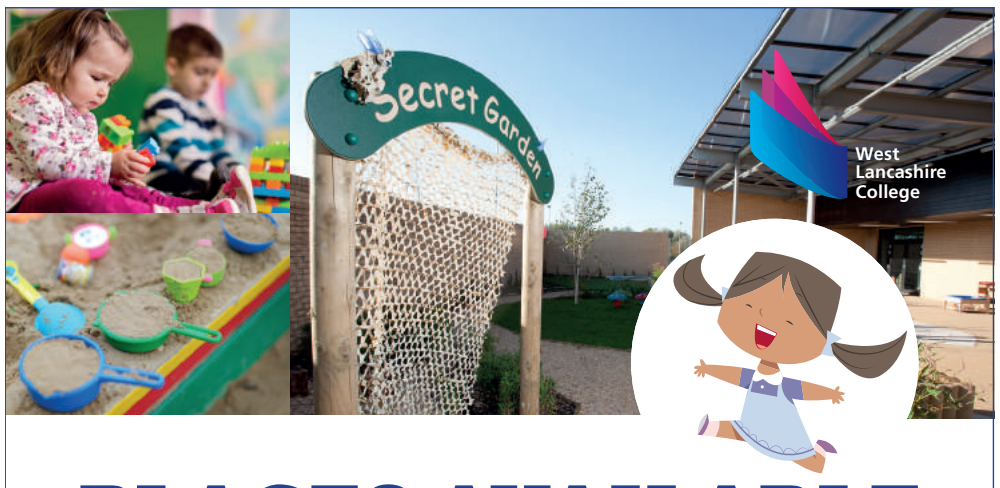
College launch Professional Masterclasses with Award Winning Make-up Artist Jen Hunter

West Lancashire College are pleased to announce a range of brand new Make-up Masterclasses delivered by award winning Make-Up Artist Jen Hunter.

Jen has worked in the make-up industry for ten years alongside photographers, stylists and models in a range of settings including fashion and commercial events, delivering make-up services from special effects to catwalk, beauty and bridal. Over the past three years she has worked as MUA at a range of international, high profile events including New York Fashion Week and London Fashion Week, and is set to jet off to New York once again in 2018.

Jen spends her time between Spectrum Make-up and teaching on make-up courses across the North West, and West Lancashire College are delighted to team up with her to offer you a fabulous range of Masterclasses this Spring delivered at her MUA Studio in Rainford.

Many of the Masterclasses include free professional brush sets and MUA materials relevant to each class. To find out more, please see inside, or contact West Lancashire College Enquiries on 01695 52300 / enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk



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To find out more and for details of how to apply, call course enquiries on **01695 52300** or email **enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk**

*Subject to approval

www.westlancs.ac.uk

West Lancashire College